■ BUSINESS / B5
GMA 7 earnings for 2005 expected to hit P9.4B

■ NEWS / A2
Comelec gets P3.3B for computerization, but Abalos rejects conditions

■ NEWS / A4
US Marine reunited with long-lost kin in the muddy landslide ruins

■ METRO / A20
2 vans damaged as portion of Adriatico Street in Ermita caves in

Janitor fish oil Marikina student's ticket to US tilt

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE FISH THAT MARIKINA fisherfolk consider a pest is bringing recognition to a 16-year-old student and his mother.

Raymond Joseph Amurao was part of a

JANITOR/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, February 24, 2006 ★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 78 P18 website: www.inq7.net

GMA allies see something sinister in Makati meeting

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

THE ADMINISTRATION SEES THE MEETING CONvened on Wednesday by the Makati Business Club as a portent of things to come.

Leaders of the majority bloc in the House of Representatives talked of an "ouster plot by power groups," ostensibly referring to a group of businessmen, religious leaders and former high

GMA ALLIES/ A6

Cory leads Ayala march

Heavy rains stop search; school roof believed found

By Christian V. Esguerra, Jani Arnaiz and Jhunnex Napallacan

GUINSAUGON, ST. BERNARD, Southern Leyte—Amid heavy rain, Filipino authorities yesterday ordered a pullout of all rescuers digging in the spot where around 250 pupils and teachers are believed trapped inside a school building.

Continuous rains since early morning caused water rushing down the mountain to swell, prompting Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, overall ground commander of the rescue mission, to call off operations at the site at around 11 a.m.

"We temporarily suspended [operations] because of the heavy downpour," Ramos told reporters at around 2:30 p.m. "In fact, seven Taiwanese rescuers were stuck in the area."

An aerial survey, however, showed the rains had exposed a portion of a green roof believed to be that of the school building. Some 20 meters from the exposed roof, a computer, refrigerator, a lesson plan, notebooks, textbooks and pencil cases were found.

Capt. Roman Dioso, on-scene commander of the rescue operation, said freon leaked from the refrigerator when it was moved.

The area was very soft and wet, hence digging will only be attempted today after the rains shall have stopped. A St. Bernard councilor will be flown over the site to confirm if the green roof belonged to the school.

The decision to halt operations was made upon the recommendation of geologists stationed in the area, according to Lt. Col. Raul Farnacio, commander of the Filipino troops tapped for the rescue operation.

Despite the slowdown in the operations, seven more bodies were retrieved yesterday, bring-

HEAVY/ A19

THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR THE US MARINES on search and rescue duty in the mud-deep terrain of the entombed village of Guinsaugon. As their truck pulls out, children smile for the INQUIRER camera. Another threat of a landslide stops rescue operations on Thursday morning. REM ZAMORA

It marks return of top traders to rallies

By Daxim L. Lucas and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HAVING BEEN LEFT out of the officially sanctioned Edsa rites, former President Corazon Aquino will lead a group of marchers on Makati's Ayala Avenue today in a bid to revive the dying spirit of People Power, retracing the route she and other anti-Marcos protesters often took during the build-up to the 1986 Edsa uprising.

The country's top business leaders are expected to join Aquino in today's march, which is widely seen to be a protest rally as well against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It will mark the return of businessmen taking a more active role in resolving the political crisis hounding the country, according to Ramon del Rosario Jr., a trustee of the Makati Business Club and Aquino's finance secretary.

"All of us have to offer something for the country," Aquino said, by way of explaining her role in today's march.

She called on Filipinos to "make a sacrifice" to help make the gains of People Power work for the country, especially in alleviating poverty.

The event will begin at 3 p.m. Marchers will assemble at the RCBC Plaza at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues and walk the two blocks to the Ninoy

CORY LEADS/ A19

AFP retreats, downplays own coup report

By Dona Pazzibugan

AFTER CLAIMING TO HAVE ARrested 14 junior officers involved in a coup plot, the military has downplayed its own report.

A military spokesperson said yesterday that all 14 alleged coup plotters, who were not identified, were released after questioning and that no charges would be filed against them.

Col. Tristan Kison said the extent of involvement of the 14 junior officers in the plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo had not been determined.

He did not say when the 14 junior officers were released, adding they were just taken in for questioning.

"The 14 officers who squealed to [Army chief Lt.] Gen. [Hermogenes] Esperon that they were being recruited have returned to their units because the Army is confident they have given information to stop the recruitment," Kison told reporters.

But Esperon had painted a different picture of the junior officers.

On Wednesday, the Army chief announced that the military had identified the 14 junior officers involved in a coup plot based on captured documents.

He said that the military had thwarted the coup plot because it

AFP/ A6

EDSA I 20

THE PEOPLE

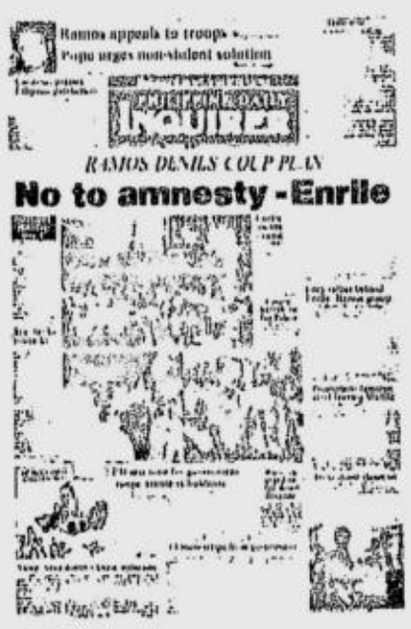
Brotherhood of Doctors forged

By Joel U. Macalino

WE WERE ALL CLASSmates at the then Emilio Aguinaldo College of Medicine—now the De La Salle University College of Medicine—in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

When the call to gather around the Camps Aguinaldo and Crame area came, we felt that it was about time to break out from the secure enclave of our campus and

BROTHERHOOD/ A12


Ramos appeals to troops
Pope urges non-violent solution
RAMOS DENIES COUP PLAN
No to amnesty - Enrile

FEB. 24, 1986, issue of the INQUIRER.

THE MILITARY

FVR cried while talking to Marcos

By Col. Julian M. Maala PC, GSC (ret.)

These are excerpts from the author's journal, which is based on the notes that he scribbled during those four days in Camp Crame.-ED.

ON FEB. 24, 1986, THE BELEAGUERED Ferdinand Marcos called the rebels' Command Post at Camp Crame.

After speaking with Marcos, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile passed the phone to Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, who said: "Manong Ferdie, this is Eddie." Soon Ramos was in tears.

The loyalists under President Marcos and Gen. Fabian Ver and the reformists under Enrile and Ramos were poised for a military showdown.

The decision of the breakaway group was high-risk; it was hard put to match the strength of Marcos's forces, which he had fortified for more than two decades.

Feb. 23:

I was detailed as the Command Duty Officer (CDO) at Camp Crame that Sunday for 24 hours starting at 8 a.m.

At 3:15 a.m. I hurriedly gulped my cof-

FVR/ A11

Syndicates preying on orphans

By Christian V. Esguerra

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—On top of everything else, human vultures are staking out the children of Barangay Guinsaugon.

A volunteer official has warned that the children, male and female, particularly those who lost one or both parents in the Feb. 17 landslide, were attracting a syndicate involved in human trafficking.

The group has been visiting evacuation centers to entice the children with the promise of new beginnings and high-paying jobs in Manila and other urban centers, said Rodel Bontuyan, program unit manager of the Humanitarian Child Center Organization of the International Child Center.

"The most vulnerable are chil-

SYNDICATES/ A19

GMA knocked on doors of embassies

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, PRESident Macapagal-Arroyo was knocking on the doors of embassies in Manila, bringing news of Corazon Aquino's declaration as the successor to President Ferdinand Marcos.

This was bared yesterday by President Arroyo, who had taken her entire family, including First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, to Edsa to join the throng of Filipinos for four glorious days in 1986.

"At that time we were in Edsa, there was a special assignment given to the daughters of

GMA/ A24

Youngest 'Guyito' artist dies

By Lito B. Zulueta

ROMEO FORBES JR., THE youngest of 20 artists who painted the well-loved Guyito mascot of the INQUIRER as a colorful anthem to the Filipino youth and their desire for education, is dead of cancer of the blood. He was 25.

Forbes had been bedridden since mid-December, first at the Lung Center, then at the Philippine General Hospital, where he died early Tuesday morning.

In January, he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and underwent chemotherapy. Despite a slight improvement in his condition, he asked to receive the last sacraments on Feb. 11 from a Divine Word missionary priest. Over the weekend, he lapsed into a coma. Relatives said he died peacefully.

Perhaps the biggest-selling of

YOUNGEST/ A13

THE PALACE

So ended the reign of the Marcos men at Padre Faura

By Juan A. Ona

(Last of two parts)

Tuesday, February 25 (con't.)

WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE two statements were circulated to the Foreign Service.

Ralph Gonzales telephoned Consul General Raul Rabe in Honolulu and told him that we were having difficulty sending out our statements. He wanted them dictated to Rabe for dissemination to the Foreign Service. But Rabe had more troubling things on his mind. He said there was no money to pay the staff because he had no access to the banks anymore.

Vicente Reyes, the AsMin for Administration, grabbed the phone and assured Rabe that his financial problems would be attended to right away. Only then were the two statements dictated to Honolulu.

It was almost noon. We decided to take the statement that I had drafted to Camp Crame right away. Ernie Pineda's statement was left

SO ENDED/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers, while the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/24/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Comelec gets P3.3B for automation

But Abalos rejects senators' condition

By Jerome Aning and Philip C. Tubeza

WHETHER THE SENATORS like it or not, the Commission on Elections as currently constituted would carry out the modernization of the country's electoral process once the budget is available, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. declared yesterday.

Abalos made the statement in a telephone interview as he rejected a condition imposed by the Senate, which approved the Comelec's 2006 budget of P3.3 billion on condition that Abalos and other officials implicated in the Mega Pacific scandal would stay away from the poll modernization program.

"They can't do that," Abalos said. "We will implement what the law says we have to implement."

Abalos, along with Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr., was among seven Comelec members the Supreme Court had ordered investigated for entering into a P1.2 billion contract with the Mega Pacific Consortium for the purchase of vote-counting machines which it voided because bidding irregularities.

ABALOS

Four other commissioners involved in the deal – Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier – have already retired.

A fourth incumbent member of the Comelec, Romeo Brawner, took office last year and was not involved in the Mega Pacific deal.

In approving the Comelec's 2006 budget last Wednesday, the Senate inserted a "special provision" stating that the funds for poll modernization should be used consistent with the Supreme Court decision voiding the "illegal and imprudent" Mega Pacific deal.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, noted that the court's ruling specified that Abalos and his fellow commissioners should "refrain from implementing any other contract or agreement entered into with regard to the (automated elections) project."

"If they continue in their job, we cannot have an automated election because the Supreme Court said that for so long as you guys are there, you cannot have anything to do with automated elections," Arroyo said.

"We appropriated the P1.6 billion but there will be a special provision which says, in effect, that the disbursement of these funds will have to be consistent with the decision of the Supreme Court, which in turn means they are not the ones going to implement it," he added.

Abalos construed the Senate's condition to mean that the bidding and the purchasing of automation equipment would be conducted properly so it would not be questioned again in court.

"The senators told us that we should observe the [proper] bidding and purchasing procedures," he said.

Abalos insisted that the Mega Pacific deal was above board. He, Borra and Tuason have rejected repeated calls for their resignation.

The Ombudsman is already looking into the possible criminal liability of Abalos and other Comelec officials involved in the deal, a move senators hope would lead to their ouster from the election body.

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee earlier said that if the commissioners do not resign, the "most feasible way" to remove them was for the Ombudsman to file criminal charges.

LYN RILLON

MILITARY BACKING

With Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga behind her, President Macapagal-Arroyo gestures during yesterday's visit to the off-base housing project for junior officers, enlisted men and personnel of the Armed Forces in Camp Riego de Dios Village in Tanza, Cavite. It is the first of several AFP off-base housing communities planned during the tenure of then AFP chief of staff Angelo Reyes.

Cardinal Rosales calls for sacrifice

By Leila B. Salaverria

SPEAKING FOR THE FIRST TIME as a new cardinal of the Catholic Church, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales on Wednesday sounded a call for sacrifice to achieve unity in the country.

After an evening Mass at the Manila Cathedral celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Focolare Movement in the Philippines, Rosales hailed the church organization for its goal of fostering unity in diversity.

He said this was what the country had been looking for.

"Is this not what our country needs? Unity... is this not exactly what our country is looking for? And if you think along that line, then I would say there is absolutely no unity and communion unless everyone makes a sacrifice of surrendering self, ambition, selfish interests no matter how good they think they are," said Rosales, whose voice was hoarse from laryngitis.

Rosales also called on the people to pray for the country.

"Pray for our country still looking for unity and yet is not willing to make the sacrifice," he said. "Pray much, I'm sure we will find it one day not through the barrel of a gun, not through selfish ambition, not through plots, power or powerlessness, but only in the prayer and spirit of Jesus."

Rosales, who had set up the "Pondo ng Pinoy" project to raise funds for the poor, said his new designation would entail more service to the needy.

"I'm completely unworthy. I say woe to you that this added task or responsibility or work will not be honor but would mean greater service. That the many poor around us, so neglected by the powerful, may be attended to, recognized, loved and served," he said.

RP entrepreneurs are patriots – GMA

By Christine O. Avendaño and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday asked the country's entrepreneurs, whom she called "patriots," to reject politicking and the destabilization moves against her administration by "growing the economy through entrepreneurship and steadily denting poverty."

Speaking at the "Go Negosyo Summit" at Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City, the President said: "Let us resolve to not let politicking or destabilization put down or destroy what we have here before us – the Filipino spirit of enterprise."

Speaking at the summit called by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE), the President said company executives were "more bullish" about the economy today than at any period based on a Central Bank poll last week.

"That is optimistic; that is not being afraid," she said.

The President said she herself had opted to be optimistic about the "many trying times" she had faced as a public servant.

She said she never forgot what her then boss at the Department of Trade and Industry, businessman Jose Concepcion, had told her: "Believing you can do it is half being able to do it."

"(T)hat is optimism. And I've never forgotten that exhortation through the many trying times I've had as a public servant," she said.

The President also lauded the PCE for holding the summit yesterday, "as it becomes a part of our celebration of Edsa," referring to the 20th anniversary of the first People Power revolution this week.

She also announced that she had instructed Presidential Adviser on Jobs Creation Arthur Yap to talk to the Land Bank and the Development Bank of the Philippines to set aside P50 million as an "incubation fund" to help finance new entrepreneurs to be chosen by the PCE.

Kidnapped Taiwanese couple rescued by 'people power'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—LIU Kuo-shi bowed his head and placed his right hand on his chest in a gesture of gratitude, which he and his wife Hoduan Chin were unable to do in their rush to safety after 300 residents of a Zambales coastal village rescued them from kidnappers two days ago.

"At first they mistook us for thieves or for running away from our bills because we jumped out of the window of our cottage," the 56-year-old Taipei-based trader told police through an interpreter. "When they understood that we were kidnapped, they came to our rescue. They encircled us, protected us from our pursuing kidnappers. That's how we managed to escape."

Senior Supt. Arrazad Subong, deputy chief of the Zambales police, confirmed the rescue of the Taiwanese couple by villagers of Felmida Diaz in the municipality of Cabangan around 7 a.m. last Wednesday.

Liu and his wife were turned over to representatives of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office here on Wednesday night.

Police said the two were abducted immediately after their arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on the night of Feb. 19 and were subsequently hidden in a cottage rented by the kidnappers at the Galinato Beach Resort in Zambales.

"The couple managed to get the attention of the residents when they screamed and did sign language that they were in trouble. Others understood simply from the panic in the faces of the Lius," Subong told the INQUIRER.

The residents swarmed around the Taiwanese couple, making it impossible for three of the alleged kidnappers suspects to get near them, Subong said, recalling the scene when he arrived at the village. He said the police were at the scene five minutes after Barangay Captain Genardo Ofunda and Mayor Jesse Mendigorin called for help.

Although unable to speak a word of English, the couple were profuse in their gratitude to the villagers.

"We are thankful to them," Liu said through an interpreter.

"I feel relaxed now," Liu's 59-year-old wife said, forcing a smile.

Two of the alleged kidnappers, identified as Bert Tupaz and a certain Darwin, escaped by boarding a Victory Liner bus, police said. Another suspect, Dante Perdigon, drove away in a van but was intercepted later at a checkpoint in Botolan, Zambales.

Police are looking for the two escaped suspects and the alleged mastermind, a Taiwanese identified as Din Cheng Hsiang, also known as Andy Din.

Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, Central Luzon police director, told reporters that Din has links to a syndicate based in Taiwan but operates in the Philippines.

Din was negotiating an P80-million ransom through a contact in Taiwan but no payment had been made prior to the Lius' escape. According to Subong, the police were at the scene five minutes after Ofunda and Mayor Mendigorin called for help, Lapinid said.

The Lius told police they first met Din at the Naia where he fetched them. Handcuffed right after boarding a van, the Lius were taken to a safe house in Iba, the Zambales capital.

The Lius lost US$15,000, NT$20,000 and their passports to the suspects, police said.

Malaysians to pay maids through banks

STARTING MARCH 1, FILIPINOS AND OTHER foreign domestic workers in Malaysia will receive their salaries through banks, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said yesterday.

Malaysia recently amended its 50-year-old labor law to require employers of foreign maids to open bank accounts for them and pay the domestics through the bank.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz said the Philippine government welcomed the development. *Jerome Aning*

Erap back in hospital with painful eye

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA was rushed yesterday to the San Juan Medical Center after complaining of severe pain in his left eye.

The 68-year-old Estrada, who is detained in his sprawling rest house in Tanay, Rizal while facing plunder charges before the Sandiganbayan Special Division, was brought to the hospital overland after 3 p.m. by his Philippine National Police guards.

According to his physician, Dr. Lorenzo Hocson, the conjunctival cysts in the former president's left eye is causing an eye irritation hence the pain. He said the cysts, which were also found in the right eye, will have to be surgically removed stressing that Estrada's condition is not life threatening.

"We did not remove that cyst in his left and right eyes when he was operated earlier this month to avoid any complication and also in the hope that we can reduce its size through medication," Hocson, in a brief interview, said.

Estrada, underwent surgery at the SJMC on Feb. 2 to remove excess eyelid skin in his right eye which aggravated an eye infection brought about by an insect bite.

Hocson said Dr. Amadeo Veloso of the Asian Eye Institute will conduct the eye operation. He added that it was Veloso who successfully treated Estrada's cataract problem in 2004.

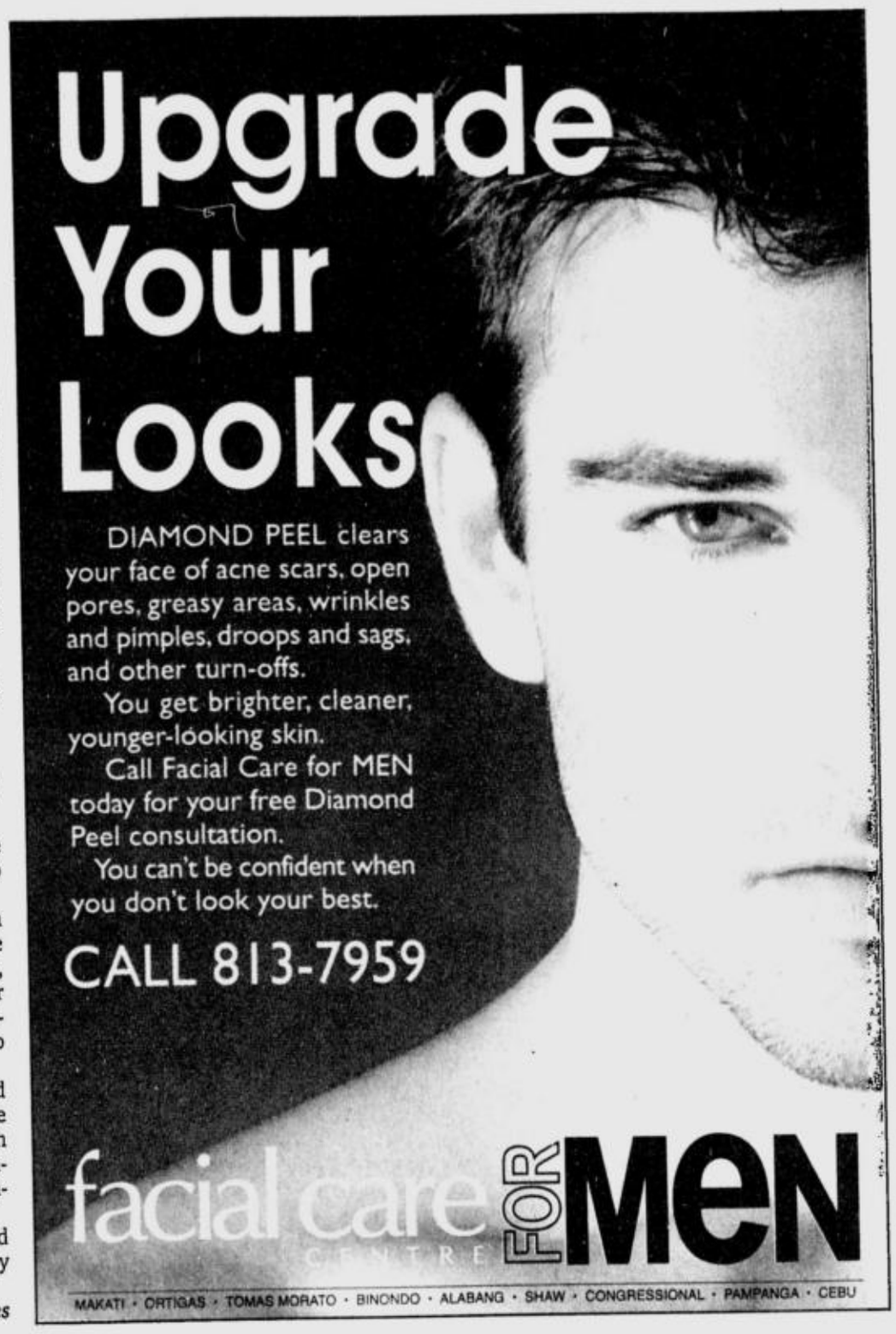
Lawyer Jose Alberto Flaminiano, a member of Estrada's legal defense team, said they have a pending motion before the Special Division asking permission for Estrada's hospitalization.

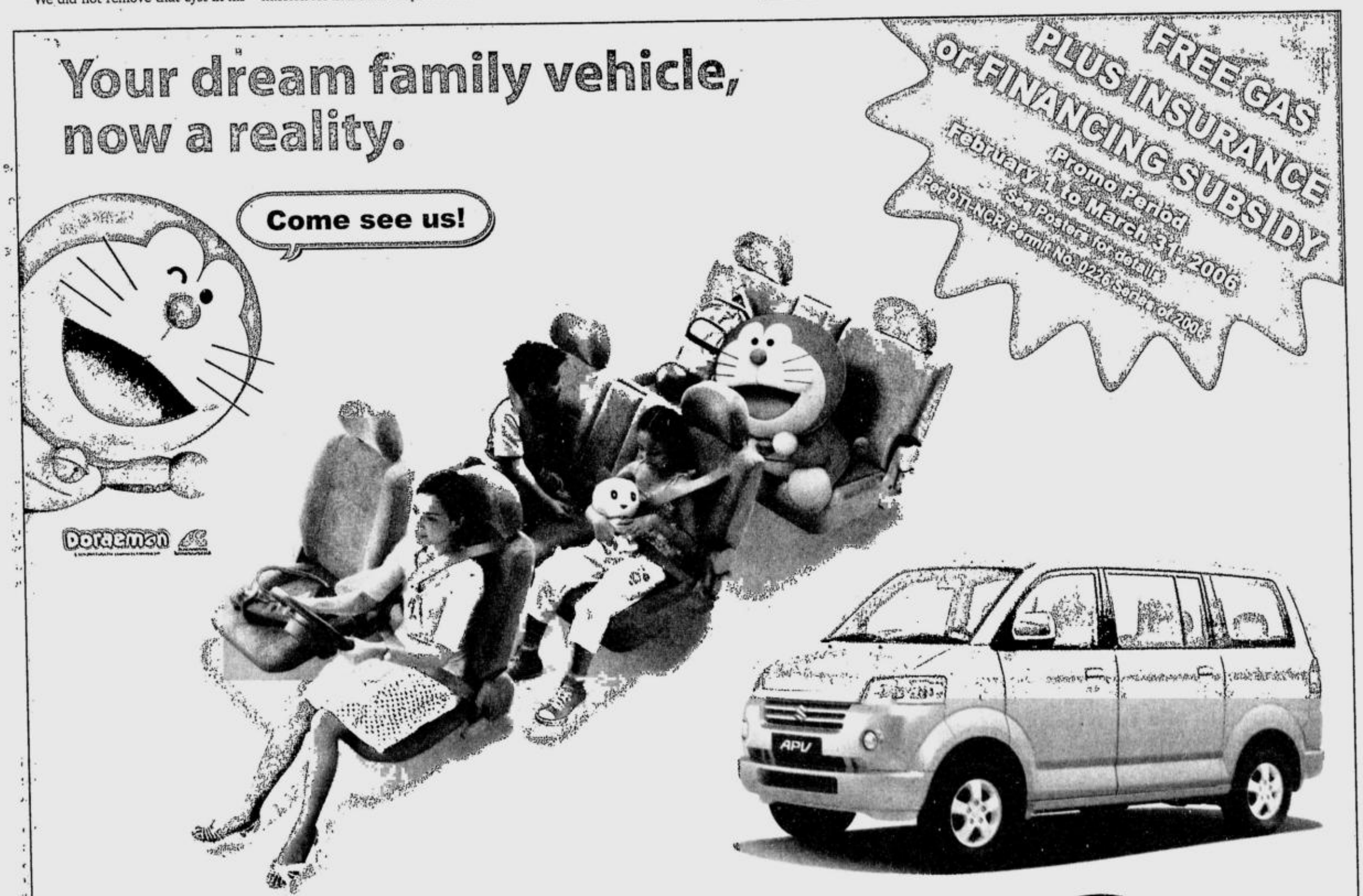
"But because of the severe pain, we decided to immediately bring him to the hospital."

A member of the Sandiganbayan Sheriff's Office, who asked not to be named, said that in emergency cases, there is no need for a court order since there is a standing directive allowing the PNP to bring Estrada to the hospital in emergency cases.

Early this week, Estrada's US based doctor, Christopher Mow, gave the former president a clean bill of health although he emphasized that Estrada's condition should be closely monitored for any infection.

Mow said an infection could severely affect Estrada's knee surgery and his ability to testify in court. *Nelson F. Flores*





MIRACLE IN LEYTE

US Marine reunited with long-lost RP relative

GUINSAUGON, SOUTHERN LEYTE — US Marine Sgt. Kim Miller was digging for landslide survivors and had returned to his Navy ship anchored off the coast of Leyte island when word came: Get back, someone wants to see you.

He could hardly believe it: A Filipino relative he lost contact with long ago had recognized his face on TV.

A few days later, on a rainy Thursday, Miller, 23, from Orange County, California, embraced Atilano Susaya, his late grandfather's brother and one of his few surviving relatives in the Philippines.

"I was so happy. When they first told me, I couldn't believe it," a smiling Miller said. "My mom's dead, and my grandfather died while I was in Iraq. They first told me it was my grandfather waiting to see me. I thought, that can't be true. It's his brother. He, too, raised me."

Born in Angeles

Miller was born in Angeles City, next to the former US Air Force Base in Clark, to a Filipino mother and American father, who was serving here before the base closed in 1991.

Miller grew up in Angeles, then migrated to the United States in September 1999. Two months later, he joined the Marines.

The last time he saw Susaya was eight years ago in the Philippines.

"I kinda forgot about him already," Miller said. "But I kinda saw it coming. When I heard I was going to Leyte, I said, gosh, my mom's from there. Maybe I have some relatives there."

A teary-eyed Susaya, in his 70s, said he was watching a TV report Monday about the Marines helping in the rescue effort in Guinsaugon, where a mountainside collapsed Friday. He lives in Tacloban, on the northern tip of Leyte, and immediately jumped on a bus and rode for six hours to the site to find Miller.

Amazing

"This is amazing. It wasn't easy to arrange," said US Navy Cmdr. Manuel Biadog Jr., a military chaplain, who was also born in the Philippines. "When I heard about it, I contacted the USS Essex to look for Sgt. Miller. Finally, the Command allowed him to come back."

About 300 men are here from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Force, from Okinawa, Japan.

They are among the thousands of rescue workers and volunteers searching for survivors. None have been found since the first hours after Friday's disaster, but the government is reluctant to call off the rescue operation, hoping for a miracle.

Miller and Susaya have had their own miracle of sorts.

The two met outside a tent that serves as a command post for the rescue. After being interviewed by reporters, they walked away to talk in private. *AP*

Jollibee, Sun Life come to Leyte aid

THE JOLLIBEE FOUNDATION, IN PARTNERship with Gawad Kalinga, has committed to build 100 houses for the families affected by the landslide in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

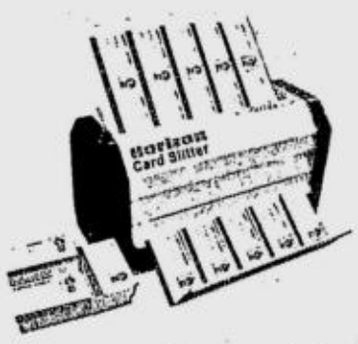
Marissa Camacho-Reyes, executive director of Jollibee Foundation, also announced that all Jollibee stores nationwide are accepting coin donations for the landslide victims. Coin banks are designated in Jollibee stores where customers can drop their donations. The proceeds will be earmarked for the construction of the houses. All Jollibee stores in the Visayas are also accepting donations in kind such as food, water and clothing.

Since Sunday, the Jollibee Foundation has been sending food for the rescue teams, as well as relief goods and meals to evacuees. It also donated 1,000 sets of gloves and masks for the rescue team and 1,000 relief packages for the evacuees in Kristo Rey High School.

Sun Life Financial Inc., meanwhile, has announced that it was donating $50,000 to the Canadian Red Cross to aid the relief and rebuilding efforts following the landslide in southern Leyte.

Donald A. Stewart, Sun Life Financial's Chief Executive Officer, said, "We are saddened by the tragedy in the village of Guinsaugon, and financial support is urgently needed to facilitate the recovery from the landslide."

Perfect Cut.



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-018	150 Units Modem	P 2,250,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on March 15, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **March 2, 2006** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Feb. 17 & 24, 2006)

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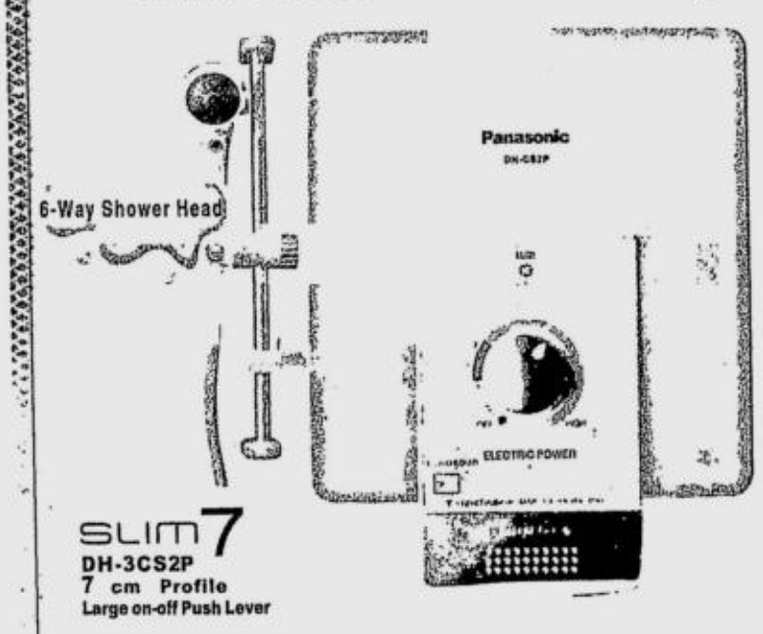

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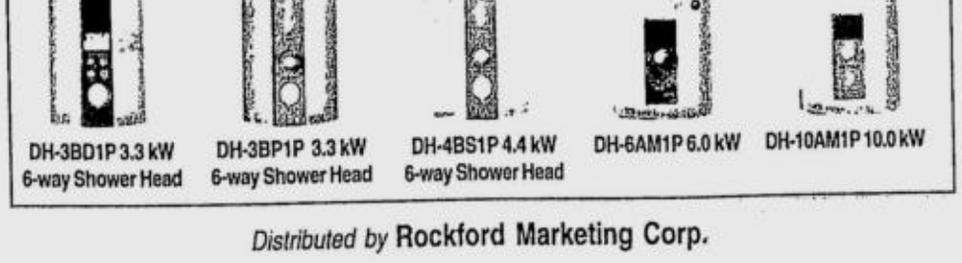

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Indon 'intel' says JI terror network splintered

JAKARTA, INDONESIA — THE JEMAAH ISlamiyah terror network survived the death of its master bomb-maker last year, and is now splintered into independent cells that continue to train and recruit suicide bombers in Indonesia, according to a confidential intelligence report.

The document, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, says senior figures in the organization have "ongoing links" with fellow militants in Afghanistan, the Philippines and Thailand as well as those in jail inside Indonesia.

Jemaah Islamiyah, which once had cells throughout Southeast Asia and allegedly received funding from al-Qaida, is blamed in a score of bloody bombings and failed plots in the region, including five suicide bombings in Indonesia that together killed more than 240 people.

Authorities have arrested scores of the group's operatives in the last four years, and in November police killed Azahari Husin, a top leader who allegedly made many of the bombs used in the attacks, during a raid on his hideout.

The report said that after Azahari's death, Jemaah Islamiyah went further underground, forming small cells of terrorists comprising mostly of young people recruited through Islamic study groups.

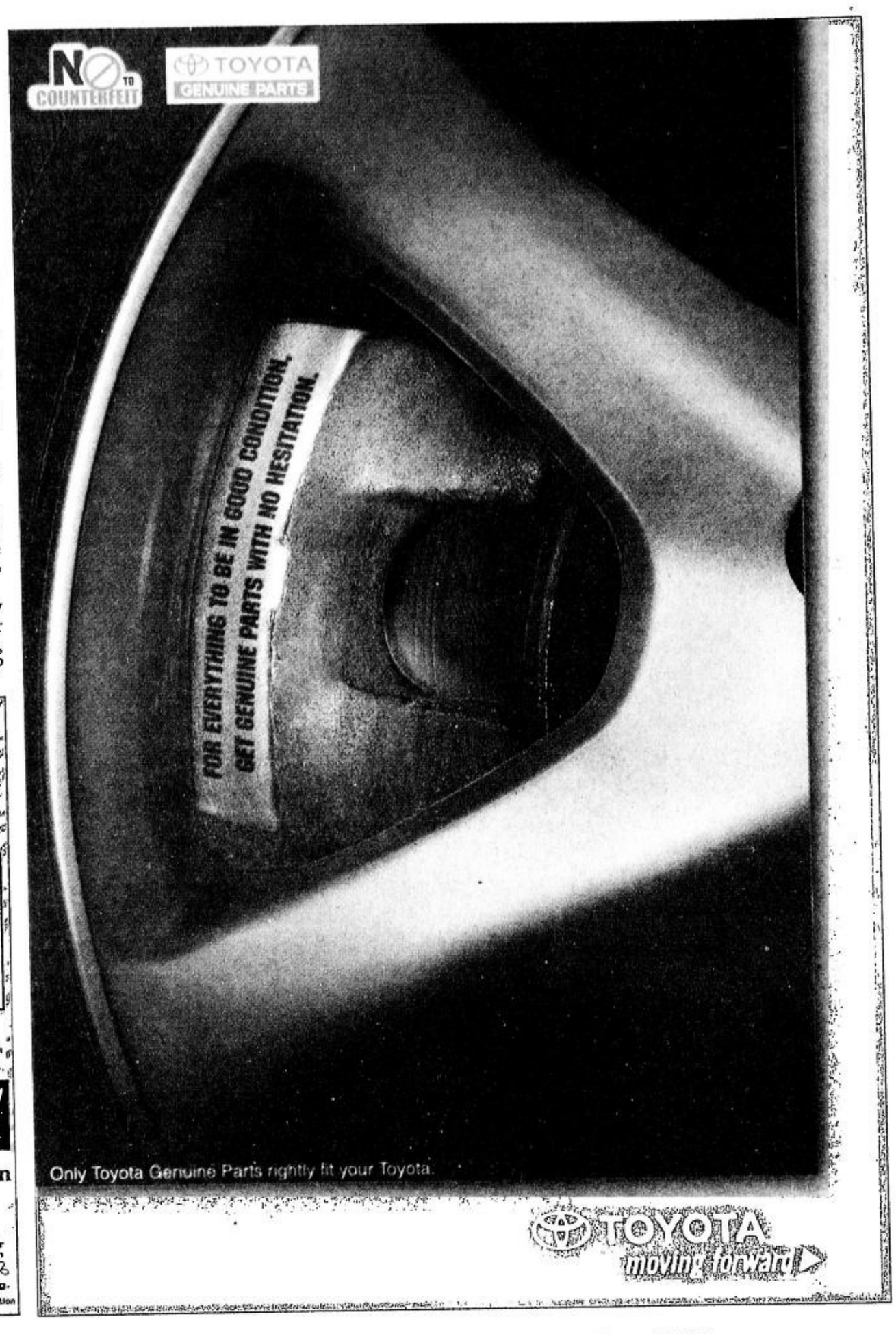
The cells are called "Thaifah Mansurah" (or Winning Team), and operate independently, according to the 33-page document, which was drafted earlier this month.

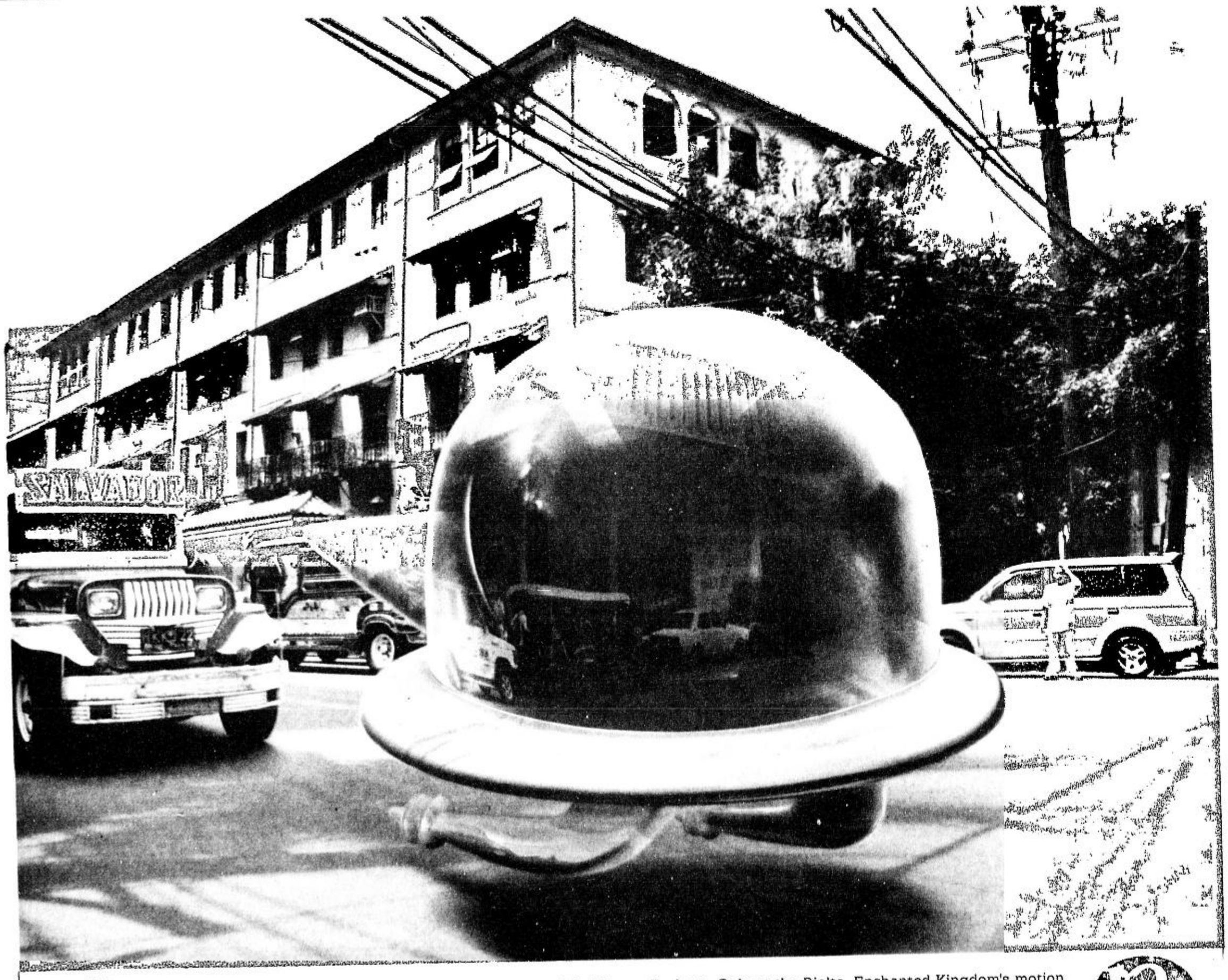
"'Thaifah Mansurah' are the main resource for JI when it is looking for suicide bombers," the report said.

Noordin Top, the group's alleged operational chief and head recruiter, remains at large.

Nasir Abbas, who was a key Jemaah Islamiyah operative until his arrest in 2003, told The AP that the new, loose structure of the group would make it even harder for police to track down Noordin.

"If police caught a regional head, it's unlikely he could identify other members of the group, or reveal the whereabouts of Noordin," said Abbas, who now works with authorities. *AP*





GMA allies see something sinister . . .

From page A1

government officials led by former President Corazon Aquino.

The timing of the meeting, which happened on the first day of the 20th anniversary of Edsa I, speaks for itself, according to Representatives Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur and Lorna Silverio of Bulacan.

"These groups and individuals cannot deny that they are up to something with a political end. Anti-GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) forces tried but failed in July to oust the President and they might try their luck again this time," said Cagas, head of the House contingent in the electoral tribunal.

Among those who attended the meeting were Ayala Corp. chief Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and members of the Hyatt 10, a group of Cabinet members and other high officials who resigned last year and called on Ms Arroyo to do the same.

The resignation was triggered by the wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano allegedly involving a conspiracy to rig the 2004 presidential election.

MBC Executive Director Guillermo Luz said the group believed in the search for truth. The President has refused to identify the election official she said she talked to.

Sense of urgency

Former Education Secretary Florencio Abad, a member of the Hyatt 10, said the meeting was convened because of the sense of urgency that the political crisis had to be resolved soon.

"They don't have the right to [ram down] the people's throats what they want [such as] their plan to instigate People Power against the President," said Silverio.

Silverio found it "unfortunate" that Aquino, the "widow catapulted to power by Edsa I," had met with "groups posturing as power blocs" like the Hyatt 10 and a few MBC members.

"They should respect the celebration of the Edsa I anniversary by engaging in prayers for our country that we may finally attain national unity and progress," she said.

Just follow law

House Majority Leader Prospero C. Nograles belittled the attempt of "high-power groups" to end the lingering political crisis brought about by allegations that Ms Arroyo stole the vote in the 2004 election and that members of the First Family had received hefty "jueteng" kickbacks.

"There is no cause for alarm. All they—Aquino, El Shaddai Leader Bro. Mike Velarde, big businessmen, Hyatt 10—need to say is that they are totally against violence and change must be constitutional. Just follow the law," said Nograles.

He then appealed to Aquino and other critics of Ms Arroyo not to allow military adventurists to take over because that will abolish civilian supremacy.

"It will become a government of men and not of laws. They will abolish all democratic structures and rule through the barrel of the gun. It's worse than the cure they propose," said Nograles, a staunch advocate of Charter change.

Rich and powerful

Cagas said the meeting was the "latest guise of the opposition plot to seize power from the duly elected President."

He reminded those who attended the Makati meeting that just because they were rich and influential "they now have the right to insist on the people what they want or to seek to dictate the course of the country's fate."

Any attempt to unseat the President would fail because the people "will not listen to instigators of chaos and revolt. They are discerning enough to know that these anti-Arroyo forces want the President out to pursue their own agenda and not the interest of the people," Cagas said.

Cagas warned coup plotters that any power grab would not succeed without the people's support.

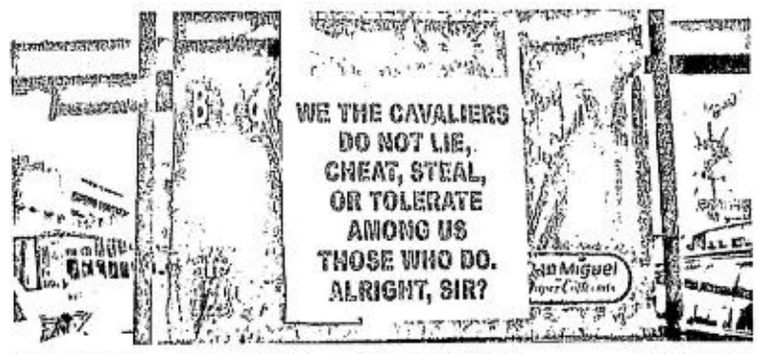
Silverio noted that except for Velarde, those at the meeting, including Aquino, had no mass-based support.

Improper

Ms Arroyo's allies in the House also criticized militant groups which observed the start of the Edsa I anniversary with a massive march that ended at the People Power Monument on Wednesday.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, a member of Ms Arroyo's Lakas-CMD party, said using the commemoration of the first People Power event to discredit the administration was far from the spirit of Edsa.

"Defying the cops in their Edsa march, throwing trash at the [monument], and answering the call of nature right then and there are very improper in commemorating a historic event like Edsa I," Pichay said.



MAGDALO posters on MRT column along Edsa. JOAN BONDOC

Rebel soldiers challenge superiors in Edsa posters

By Dona Pazzibugan

REBEL SOLDIERS HAVE FOUND a new way to convince fellow soldiers to turn their backs on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Posters bearing what appear to be two versions of the "Magdalo" flag were plastered on a section of Edsa near Cubao, Quezon City, on Wednesday night.

Underneath the flags, written in bold letters, was the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] Cadet's Honor Code: "We the cavaliers do not lie, cheat, steal or tolerate among us those who do."

Then it ended with the challenge, "Alright, sir?"

The military so far has no idea who is behind the posters, which are obviously addressed to PMA graduates who are occupying top military and police posts.

The Cadet's Honor Code is strictly upheld among cadets through their four years of training.

Once a cadet is challenged, "Alright, sir?" the cadet has to admit whether he had committed or knew of anyone who had committed any infraction of their regulations. A cadet who replies, "Alright, sir!" is presumed to be innocent of any wrongdoing.

The posters bore two flags side by side. One was the flag used by the Oakwood mutiny leaders who called themselves the "Magdalo" group—a red flag with the letter "I" insignia in the center.

The other flag, also red, bore the letters "M-K-P" around a rising sun. The letters in yellow ink supposedly stand for Makabayang Kawal Pilipino, according to military officials.

It looked like the flag which Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon claimed was supposedly recovered from captured Magdalo leader 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, except that the letters "MKP" in San Juan's flag were written in black.

These were the same posters that were put up near the entrance to the PMA compound in Baguio City during the alumni homecoming on Feb. 18.

Littering

Col. Tristan Kison, spokesperson of the military, tried to make light of the posters, saying the military would not go to the trouble of tearing them down.

"We'll leave it up to the MMDA [Metro Manila Development Authority] to remove them. That's littering," he said.

Kison grudgingly admitted that the posters and the challenge "Alright, sir?" were obviously addressed to military officials who stand by Ms Arroyo despite allegations she cheated in the 2004 elections.

He said while those behind the posters enjoyed freedom of expression, "we ask the public to be discerning. This is another way of courting the support of the Armed Forces."

AFP retreats . . .

From page A1

captured the "prime movers."

"Many of them have joined us and have returned to their units. A few of them are now restrained [to quarters]," Esperon said.

Esperon said the 14 officers confessed to attending conferences in December 2003, in 2004 and in 2005 in different hotels in Makati, talking about reorganizing Magdalo and launching "Oplan Hackle."

The Magdalo group staged a mutiny in 2003.

Esperon described Oplan Hackle as a plan to overthrow the Arroyo administration.

But according to Kison, the 14 junior officers may not have been deeply involved in the coup plot.

"What will you charge them with?" he told reporters.

Reminded that Esperon spoke about a recruitment ritual and dog tags supposedly given to recruited officers, Kison said: "Having a dog tag is not an offense."

"It's not clear what their participation is. They are part of Oplan Hackle's recruitment. The first phase is recruitment," the military spokesperson said.

Kison said no other officers were brought in for questioning.

'Captain Batingaw'

Also yesterday, a man who claimed to be an Air Force captain called up the dzBB radio station and ridiculed Esperon's claim that the military had uncovered the coup plot code-named Oplan Hackle.

"We are laughing at him. My God, since you're making up a story, why don't you come up with a good story?" said the man who identified himself as "Captain Batingaw," which is Filipino for a big bell.

He said rebel soldiers were determined to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

"[The coup] will happen suddenly. Time will come, quietly and swiftly," said the man, who claimed he was with the "Magdiwang" faction of the rebel soldiers.

"We have to be loyal to the Filipino people, not to a single President who is doing nothing at all," he said.

Opportunists

Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla doubted the caller was an Air Force officer, saying the Air Force had no "Captain Batingaw" on its rolls.

"He's entitled to his own opinion. He's just an opportunist who is grabbing the limelight. The bulk of the Armed Forces is loyal to the Constitution," Padilla said.

Following the airing of "Captain Batingaw's" threat of a coup, Malacañang said it would crack down on rebel soldiers issuing threats and anti-Arroyo rhetoric on radio.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said he had ordered an investigation of the radio broadcasts of fugitive soldiers.

"We know that they are just impostors and probably the radio stations that aired them have also started their own investigations because they were fooled," Ermita said at a briefing.

Ermita cited two radio interviews with Lt. Lawrence San Juan aired Wednesday morning in which the Magdalo leader urged residents near Malacañang to evacuate because of bomb attacks his group planned to launch this week.

San Juan was interviewed at 6:05 a.m. but Ermita claimed the police had captured the Magdalo leader at 5:45 a.m. "In other words there are plenty of Lt. San Juans?

Impostors

"We think this is just propaganda of the impostors," Ermita said.

Ermita urged the media to use their experience in determining whether their sources were who they said they were. "You should be able to determine things like this and avoid being misled," Ermita said.

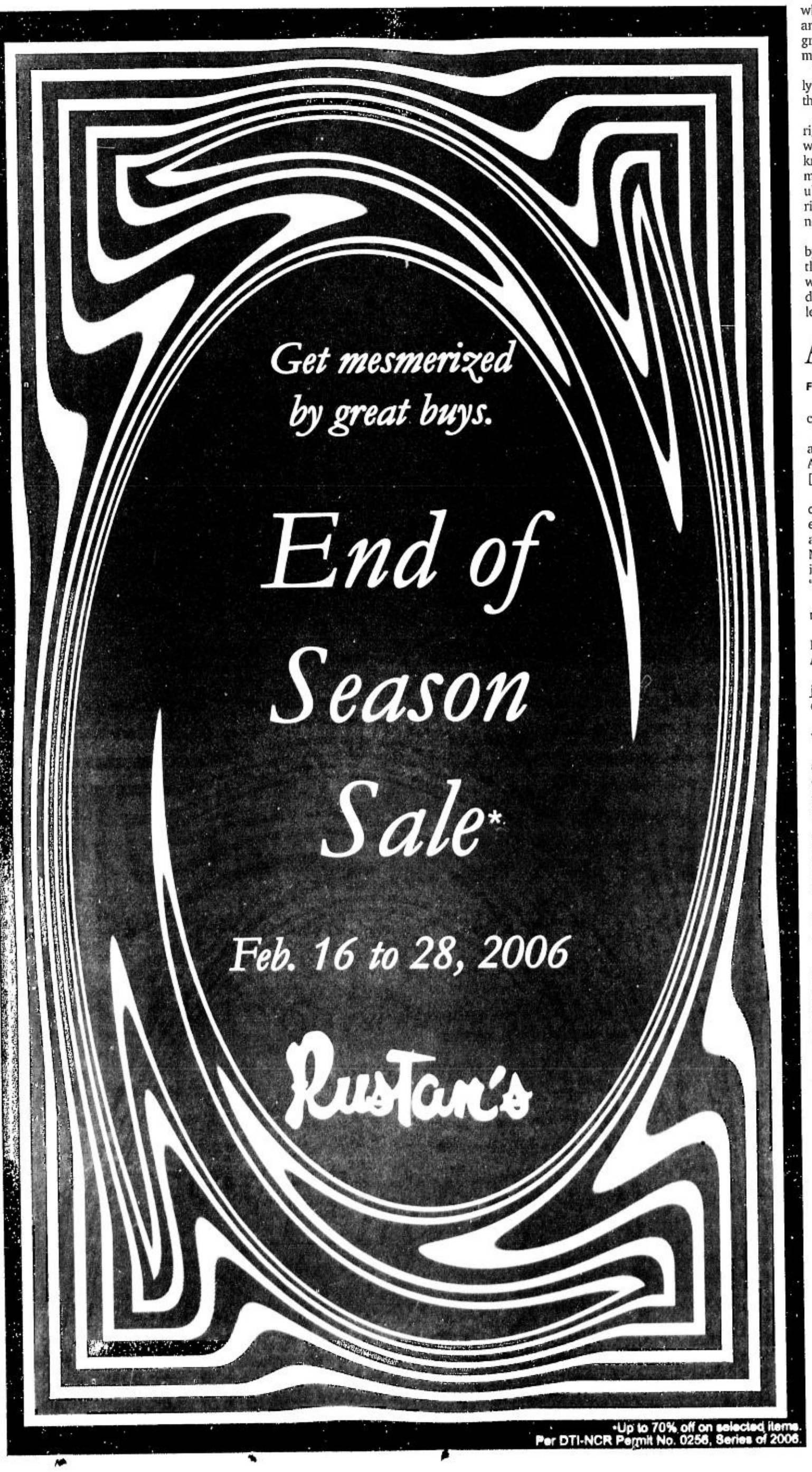
But radio station managers interviewed by the INQUIRER disputed Malacañang's claim that the San Juan interviews they aired were fake.

A news manager of a leading broadcast station said all guests on their news programs were screened thoroughly, and were asked background questions before going on air.

For real

Another radio station official said that his staff would check other sources to confirm whether a source was for real. In San Juan's case, the station official said the staff called up the Magdalo lawyer, Ruel Pulido, to confirm whether the source was for real.

Both officials said they were not buying the Palace line that their sources were impostors considering that the police had no proof that San Juan had been captured before the interview. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*



OUTSIDE SUBIC

SC upholds ban on used car imports

IT IS ILLEGAL TO IMPORT USED cars and other vehicles into the country other than through the Subic Special Economic Zone, the Supreme Court has ruled, upholding Executive Order No. 156 which bans the importation of used cars into the Philippines.

In a Feb. 21 ruling, the high court, however, imposed strict limitations on the importation of used vehicles, including the provision that they "may only be stored, used or traded, or exported out of the Philippine territory, but (they) cannot be imported into the Philippines outside of the secured fenced-in former Subic Naval Base area."

The court, in effect, modified earlier rulings of the Olongapo Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals nullifying portions of EO 156, rulings that had prompted the Office of the Executive Secretary to bring the matter before the Supreme Court.

In its 26-page ruling, the high tribunal said the prohibition on the importation of used vehicles was "valid insofar as it applies... outside the fenced-in former Subic Naval Base area."

Exceptions

Under EO 156, the only exceptions to the absolute ban on the importation of used motor vehicles are vehicles owned by returning residents which should be covered by an authority to import. Such vehicles cannot be resold for at least three years.

Likewise exempted from the ban are vehicles of the diplomatic corps and trucks, excluding pickups, buses and special purpose vehicles like fire trucks, ambulances and hearses.

The EO-prompted three groups of vehicle importers—including the Motor Vehicle Importers Association of Subic Bay Freeport Inc.—to bring the matter before the Olongapo court.

In the decision penned by Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, the Supreme Court said that "contrary to the conclusions of the Court of Appeals, EO 156 is actually . . . a valid administrative" act with "constitutional and statutory bases."

Provisions

The court cited relevant provisions of the 1987 Constitution and statutes, such as the Tariff and Customs Code, the Omnibus Investment Code of the Philippines and Republic Act No. 8800, otherwise known as the Safeguard Measures Act.

"There are thus explicit constitutional and statutory permission authorizing the President to ban or regulate the importation of articles and commodities into the country," the SC said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO 156 in 2002 in a bid to rationalize the importation of used motor vehicles and to boost domestic car production.

The decline in new vehicle sales due to the massive importation of used motor vehicles, most of which entered the country through the economic zones, prompted the government to issue EO 156.

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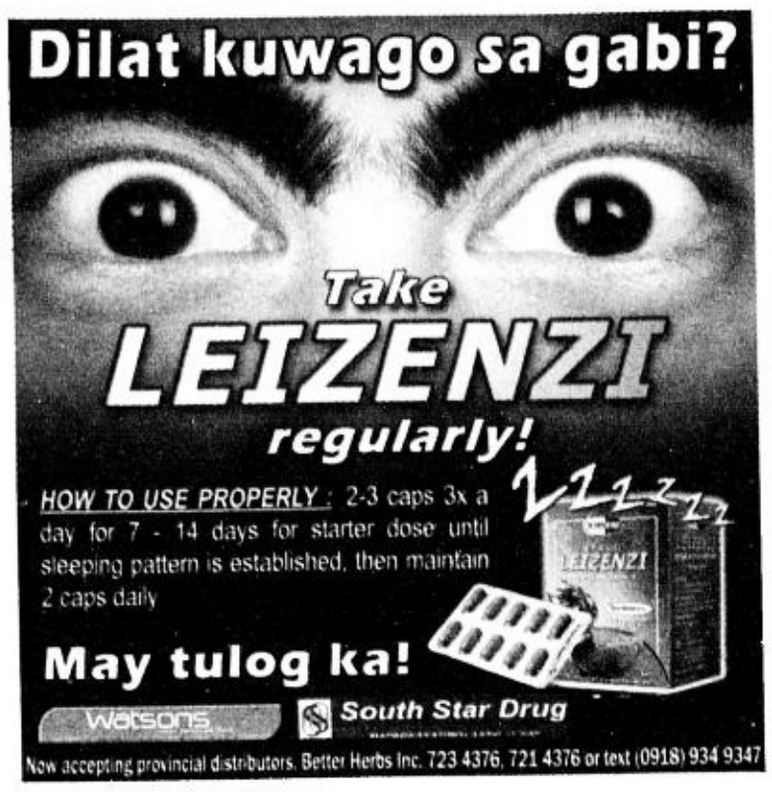


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bombing of Iraq mosque triggers revenge killings

AN ARMED Iraqi takes part in a rally in reaction to the explosion Wednesday which heavily damaged the golden dome of one of Iraq's most famous Shiite religious shrines. AP

BAGHDAD—FIFTY-THREE PEOPLE WERE KILLED in Baghdad in the 24 hours since the bombing of a major Shiite shrine sparked the worst sectarian violence the country has seen since the fall of Saddam Hussein, police said on Thursday.

Gunmen sprayed a Sunni mosque in the city of Baquba, northeast of the capital, killing one person in the latest of dozens of such incidents that have left religious and political leaders scrambling to halt a descent into all-out civil war.

Most of the people killed in Baghdad were Arab Sunnis who were attacked at mosques, police said.

Three journalists working for Al-Arabiya television were found shot dead after being attacked while filming in Samarra, where the bloodless but highly symbolic bombing of the Golden Mosque at dawn on Wednesday provoked widespread protest.

In the bloodiest apparent reprisal for the attack on one of Shiite Islam's holiest sites, men in police uniform seized 12 Sunni rebel suspects, including two Egyptians, from a prison in the mainly Shiite city of Basra and killed 11 of them.

President Jalal Talabani summoned leaders of all sides to a summit at 10:30 a.m. after the bombing provoked outrage among majority Shiites that surpassed the anger caused by thousands of killings by Sunni militants since US forces toppled Saddam's Sunni-dominated government three years ago.

One man just stood silently inside the gutted Abdel Rahman mosque in central Baghdad. A veiled woman said she saw assailants throw grenades at the Sunni mosque and then open fire and set it alight. It was one of several badly damaged overnight.

US President George W. Bush, whose diplomats and military commanders are pressing Shiite leaders to accept Sunnis in a national unity government after they took part in an election in December, urged Iraqis not to rise to the bait of what US and Iraqi officials called an al-Qaida attempt to fuel civil strife.

"Violence will only contribute to what the terrorists sought to achieve," he said in a statement, as 130,000 US troops stood by to back up Iraq's new security forces and keep order.

A policeman guarding a Sunni mosque in the southern Shiite city of Diwaniya was killed in an attack by Shiite militants.

Three Sunni clerics were among those killed on Wednesday.

The United Nations Security Council, rarely able to find a common voice on Iraq since its bitter divisions over the US invasion in 2003, sounded a note of alarm in calling on Iraqis to rally behind a non-sectarian government.

"The members of the Security Council understand the anguish caused by the attacks but urge the people of Iraq to defy its perpetrators by showing restraint and unity," it said. *Reuters*

WorldBriefs

Diana crash

PARIS—A PARIS APPEALS COURT fined three photographers euro1 ($1.19) each for invasion of privacy for taking pictures of Britain's Princess Diana and boyfriend Dodi Fayed on the night of their fatal 1997 car crash, officials said Wednesday. Jacques Langevin, Christian Martinez and Fabrice Chassery were acquitted of the invasion of privacy charge in 2003 after judges said a crashed vehicle on a public highway is not a private area. But France's highest court disagreed in a ruling last April and sent the case to the Paris appeals court for review. The court also ordered them to pay for the publication of announcements of the conviction in three newspapers or magazines. *AP*

Vietnamese refugee in $350-M jackpot

CHICAGO—A Vietnamese refugee bought the ticket that claimed the biggest US lottery win ever recorded at a whopping $365 million. Dung Tran, 34, will share his winnings with seven co-workers from the Lincoln, Nebraska meat processing plant where he has worked since arriving in the United States 16 years ago. Tran was one of three winners who continued to go to work after they learned on Saturday night that they had won the lottery. But like most in his group, he said he did not plan on working much longer. The eight winners chose to take a cash option of $177.3 million instead of getting the full $365 million paid in 30 annual installments. They will each receive about $15.5 million after state and federal taxes are withheld. *AFP*

Ecuador declares state of emergency

QUITO—Ecuador's government declared a state of emergency Wednesday in the Napo region where protesters have taken over oil industry facilities demanding a bigger cut of the Amazon area's oil profits. Protesters took over the privately owned Sardinas pumping station in Napo on Tuesday. The station is a critical hub for the area's Heavy Crude Pipeline (OCP). *AFP*

Bush unaware about deal that handed over US ports

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush did not know about a deal to hand over operations at six major US ports to an Arab company until after his administration had approved it, the White House said on Wednesday.

Surprised by a backlash from Bush's own Republican Party, the White House said it was a mistake not to explain to Congress the administration's approval of the sale decried by lawmakers as a risk to national security.

US Treasury Secretary John Snow also told reporters he did not know of the decision even though he chairs the committee that approved the sale of British-based P&O to Dubai Ports World based in the United Arab Emirates.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said Bush learned of the deal in the media and there were no objections during the review process that would have warranted it being brought to the president's attention.

When Bush found out about it, he confirmed that Cabinet secretaries stood by the decision to allow state-controlled Dubai Ports World to manage the ports, McClellan said.

US officials say the UAE is a staunch ally in the war against terrorism and has worked hard to close the loopholes that allowed Sept. 11 conspirators to use the Gulf state as an important logistics hub and conduit for funds.

The Dubai firm's planned takeover of operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans and Miami has sparked a political firestorm as Bush struggles to boost his sagging public approval ratings.

Bush held a rare news conference aboard Air Force One on Tuesday to say the deal should go forward despite lawmakers' concerns. He threatened to veto any legislation to stop it. *Reuters*

$44M taken in well-planned heist at British depot

LONDON—AN ARMED GANG disguised as police stole more than 25 million pounds ($44 million) from a security depot after abducting its manager and his family, the Bank of England said Wednesday.

Police said the gang were highly sophisticated and had planned the raid in detail, while the hostages were subjected to a "terrifying ordeal."

There were unconfirmed reports that the final figure could be up to 40 million pounds, which would make it the biggest heist in British history.

The manager of the Securitas main cash depot in Tonbridge, south of London, was pulled over while driving on Tuesday evening by what he believed was an unmarked police car, Kent Police said.

They said a man wearing a high visibility jacket and a police-style hat got out of the vehicle, which had blue lights on it.

The manager, believing they were genuine police officers, got into their car, was handcuffed, threatened at gunpoint and told to cooperate or his family would be hurt.

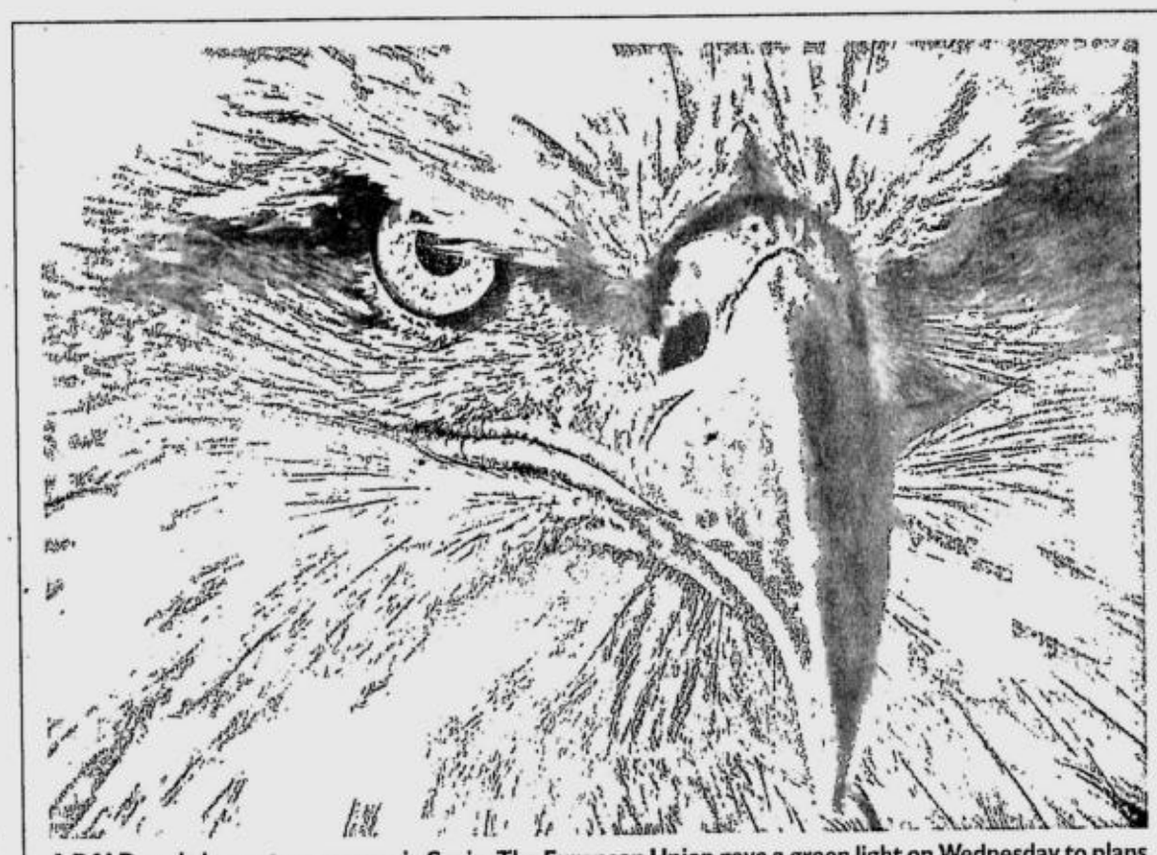
Two other robbers disguised as police abducted his wife and son from their home, telling them the manager had been involved in an accident.

Six men, some armed with handguns, then threatened and tied up around 15 staff at the depot of Securitas, a company providing security guards, alarm systems, and cash transportation services.

The gang loaded the stolen money into a white lorry before driving off in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The shocked but uninjured staff activated an alarm around an hour after the robbery. The manager, his wife and son were also unhurt.

"They have all coped extremely well in the circumstances," said detective Supt. Paul Gladstone of Kent Police. *AFP*



A BALD eagle in a nature reserve in Spain. The European Union gave a green light on Wednesday to plans by France and the Netherlands to vaccinate millions of hens, ducks and geese against bird flu. REUTERS

Bird flu hits Europe's poultry for first time

VIENNA—THE DEADLY H5N1 form of bird flu was detected in poultry in the European Union for the first time, infecting two chickens in Austria, as the virus threatened to run rampant despite worldwide efforts to confine it.

India's health secretary on Wednesday suggested that humans were infected with bird flu on the subcontinent, as Nigeria battled to contain Africa's first outbreak of the virus, and the European Commission approved French and Dutch plans to vaccinate millions of their domestic fowl.

There is growing alarm in Europe over the rapid spread of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of the virus which has killed more than 90 people, mainly in Asia, as France last week became the sixth EU country to be hit.

The virus was discovered in a second wild duck found dead in the Ain region of southeast France, the Ministry of Agriculture announced early Thursday. It said in a statement that the duck was found in the village of Bouvent on Sunday, the day after the discovery of the first wild duck carrying the strain.

The Austrian cases are especially alarming to the EU's poultry industry, so far untouched by the epidemic, and to health officials worried about human infection.

Austrian health ministry spokesperson Danielle Retzek said the country's poultry infections were "an isolated case" since the animals that tested positive for H5N1 were in a refuge and not in a chicken farm where poultry are raised for commercial consumption. *AFP*

Widely used supplements for arthritis of no use, says study

BOSTON—TWO FOOD NUTRITIONAL supplements widely taken by consumers including US President George W. Bush for joint problems are no better than a placebo for treating arthritic pain in the knee, a study said.

But the study of glucosamine and chondroitin also suggested that combining them, rather than consuming one or the other, might help ease moderate to severe knee pain.

"The bottom line is, over all there wasn't any benefit over placebo," said Daniel Clegg of the University of Utah School of Medicine and the chief author of the study, which will appear in Thursday's edition of The New England Journal of Medicine.

He said the findings from tests at 16 medical centers also show that the supplements, either alone or in combination, are unlikely to stop the pain from developing in the first place.

Consumers spend about $730 million a year on the supplements, usually hoping to find relief from a condition that afflicts at least 20 million people in the United States.

Past tests of the supplements, taken by millions of arthritis sufferers worldwide, have shown some benefit. But the rigor of some of those studies has been questioned.

The Council for Responsible Nutrition, a trade association that represents the dietary supplement industry, said Clegg's study revealed that the combination "provide significant pain relief for moderate to severe sufferers of osteoarthritis."

Clegg said that the council is focusing on the "interesting finding" in a subset of the study that only looked at volunteers whose pain was rated as moderate to severe.

Those people "did have a pretty rigorous response" to the supplements, he said.

But the number of people who fell into that group—just 354 of the 1,583 volunteers—was "not big enough to make definitive comments," so a further test would be needed to see if the benefits were real, Clegg said.

"We need to look more."

For now, "there is no evidence that these agents prevent osteoarthritis in healthy persons or in persons with knee pain" whose knees have a normal-looking X-ray, said Marc Hochberg of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, in a journal editorial.

Hochberg said it was clear that the two substances alone were no more effective than a placebo.

In the study, in which all volunteers had evidence of osteoarthritis and had been dealing with some degree of knee pain for a least six months, 60.1 percent of the people taking the placebo had a 20 percent decline in knee pain after 24 weeks. *Reuters*

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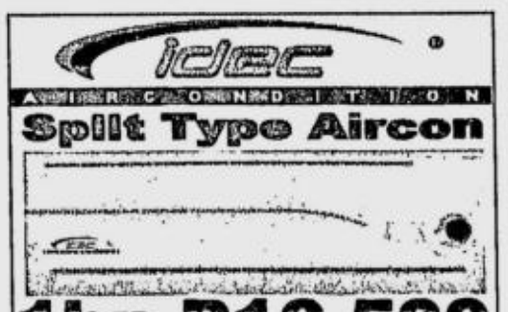

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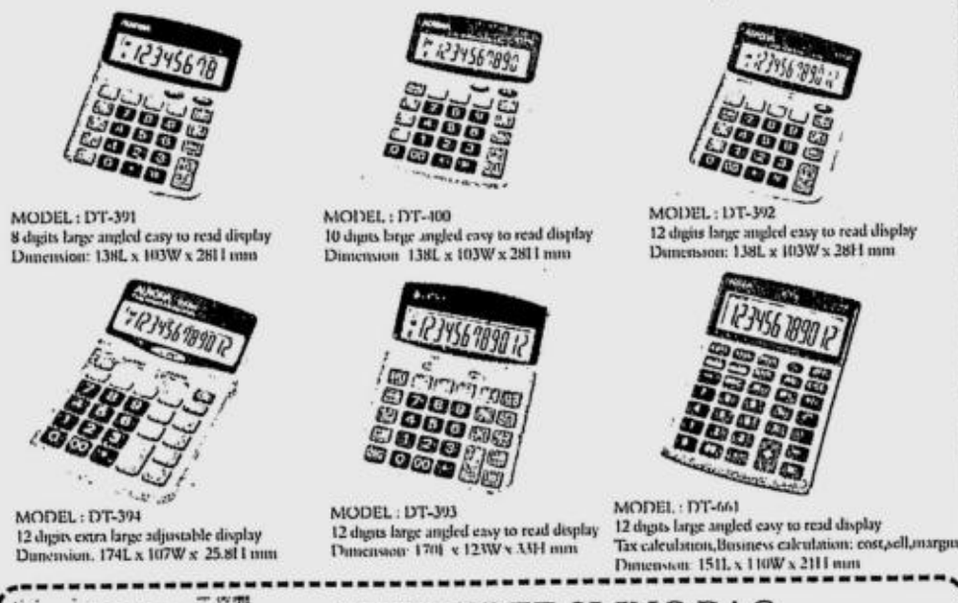

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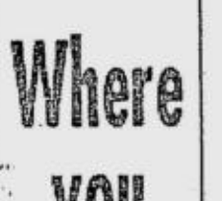

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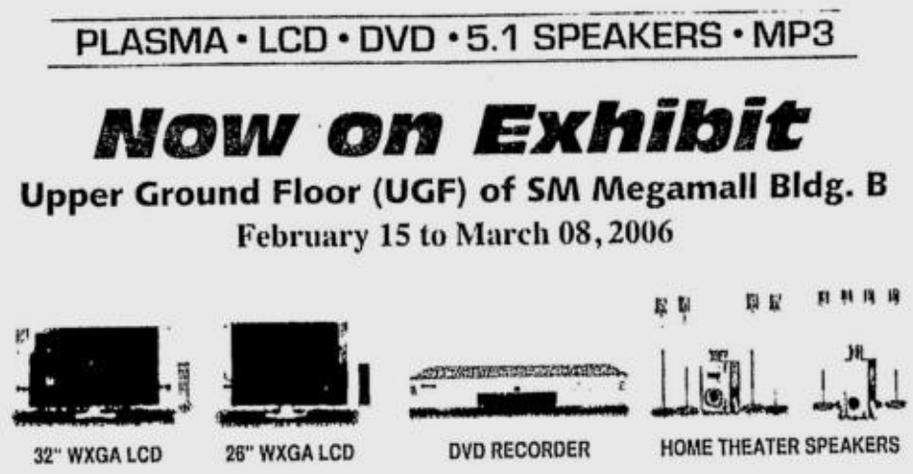

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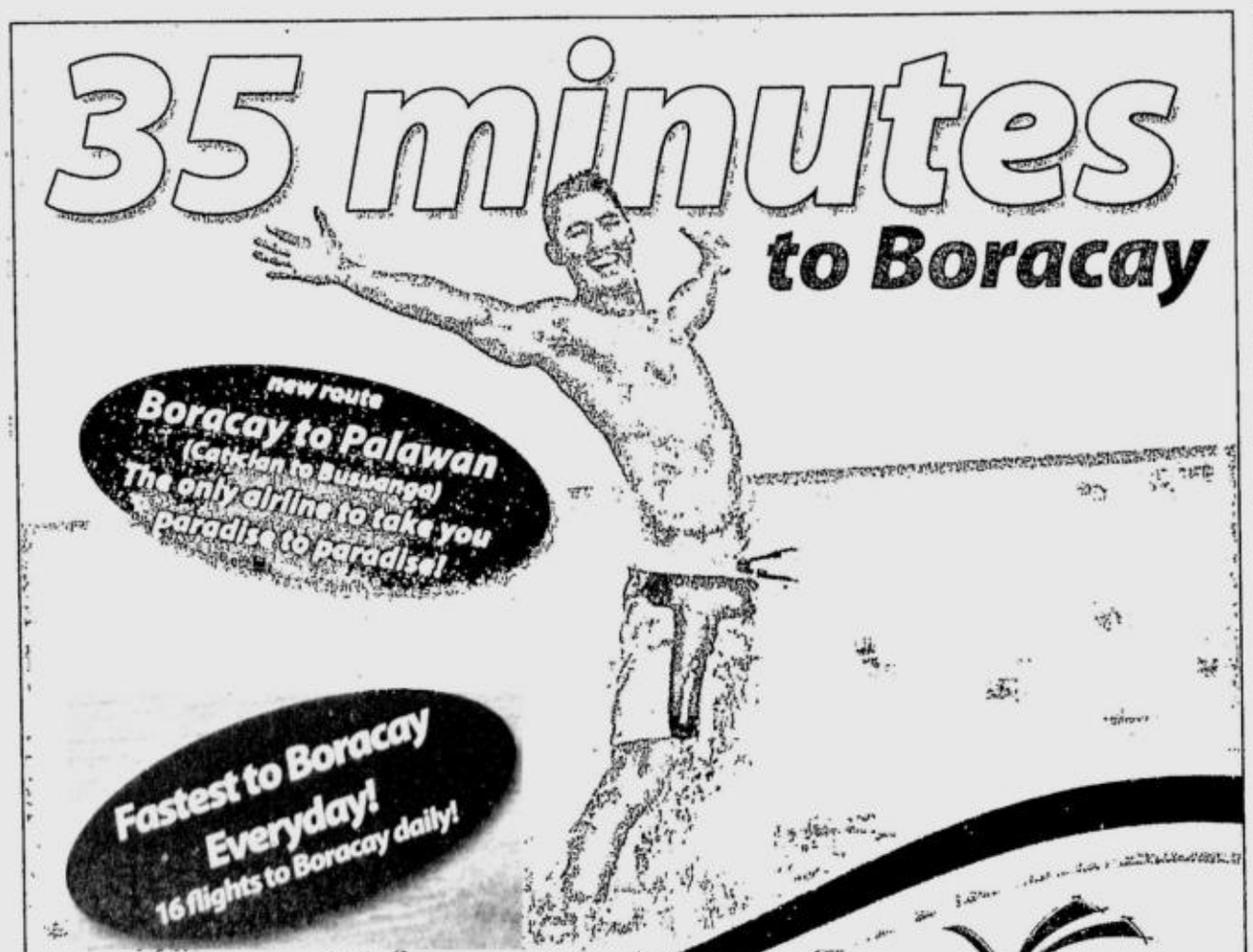

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The 'Marvelous 35' not accidental heroes

By Fe Zamora

"THE WALKOUTERS"—23 of the original 35 computer programmers now live abroad—hold a reunion 20 years later on Feb. 9 by retracing their steps from the PICC plenary hall to Baclaran Church where they drafted their statement and held a press conference. From left, Mario Lavin, Bot Bautista, Thess Roberto, Cooly Culiat-Medina, Dennie Estolas-Vista, Luchi Lavin, Alice Torres, Gi Antonio-Silvan, Maleen Cruz-Ngan, Mina Bergara, Shiony Asuncion Binamira, the project manager, Linda Angeles-Hill and Achie Concepcion-Jimenez.

FEB. 9, 1986: Computer technicians from the National Computer Center walk out of the PICC after they discovered they were tabulating fabricated results of the "snap election" in favor of Marcos.

THEY THOUGHT THEY would just walk out, have dinner and perhaps a drink and go home.

That they would end up among the "accidental heroes" of the 1986 Edsa Revolution two weeks later never crossed their apolitical minds.

The image of the 35 computer technicians in white blazers, walking out solemnly from the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on the night of Feb. 9, 1986, was a living testimony that "truth is mightier than deception."

Their statement to the media at the Baclaran Church later that night also bolstered suspicions that Ferdinand Marcos would use all tricks possible to win at all costs.

But the dictator had apparently underestimated these young and idealistic technicians from the National Computer Center. They were hired to develop the computerized tabulation system, but refused to tabulate fabricated election results.

Project manager Myrna "Shiony" Asuncion-Binamira said they had been monitoring the "discrepancies" since Feb. 8, but they thought the glitch was caused by a "bug" in the computer system.

Dignity non-negotiable

When it became obvious that the "discrepancy" was not in the program but orchestrated by some superior officials to favor one candidate, they were furious. They also felt betrayed, Binamira told the INQUIRER.

With co-project manager Linda Kapunan, Binamira went over the tabulation reports that the programmers said did not tally with the results on the tabulation board. Kapunan's husband then, Col. Red Kapunan, was one of the key leaders of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, or RAM, which spearheaded the Edsa uprising. They are now separated.

"Our dignity is non-negotiable. So what are we going to do about it?" Kapunan asked them.

Basically cyber professionals without political leanings, Jane Rosales-Yap said their reaction was very simple. "We wanted to get out, eat and go home," she said.

"We did not want ourselves to be used in any way that violates fundamental professional ethics, that's why we walked out," Binamira added.

Honor roll

When Kapunan said "now," Cooly Culiat-Medina, Alice Torres and 33 others just picked up their belongings and walked single-file toward the middle aisle, passing by the press gallery. Of the group, five were males and the rest were females.

The "walkouters" also included Ernie Alberto, Marisa Briones-Allarey, Marissa Almendral, Gie Antonio-Silva, Rory Asuncion, Bot Bautista, Erlyn Barza, Thess Baltazar-Roberto, Mina Bergara, Nori Bolado, Zoe Castro, Charles Chan, Achie Concepcion-Jimenez, Erick Celestino, Marissa Contreras-Legaspi, Maleen Cruz-Ngan, Dennie Estolas-Vista, Bambi Flor-Sena, Naz Gutierrez, Luchie Lavin, Mario Lavin, Rubi Macato-Slater, Euly Molina-Legro, Nitro Palomares-Castro, Maite de Rivera, Bing Romero-Justo, Vangie Saludares, Irma Sunico-Buno, Jules Valderrama and Celine Vinoya-Rivera.

To their surprise, the media jumped at them and followed. Blinding flashbulbs met them in the corridor. Tape recorders and microphones were thrust into their faces. Journalists yelled: "What happened? Why are you doing this?"

Sudden chill

The walkout turned into a nightmare. "We were shocked," Binamira recalled. When somebody shouted "secure them," Torres remembered feeling a sudden chill in her spine. "Secure us from what?" she wondered.

"Like death was in the air," Yap added.

Kapunan had earlier arranged for vehicles for 15 people. When 35 joined the walk, they just packed themselves into the vehicles. But where to go? Nobody knew.

They finally ended at Baclaran church where they held a press conference later that night.

In a statement which they painstakingly prepared at the church, the technicians said they were protesting violation of their professional ethics.

They also maintained they didn't have a leader, no political affiliation and definitely were not pro-Cory Aquino.

Betrayal of trust

They would later say on their blog http://walkouters.blogspot.com that "it hurt us to see a deliberate betrayal of trust. And it did not matter who was winning or losing: cheating, whether by 1 or 100,000, is still cheating."

On Feb. 9, exactly 20 years later, 14 out of the 35 "walkouters" retraced their steps from the PICC to Baclaran and finally at the Cenacle Retreat House in Quezon City where they stayed for two weeks.

23 live abroad

Kapunan, who has remarried and lives in Sydney, Australia, joined the reunion, along with Medina, who is based in Guam. Binamira said 23 of the original group now live abroad.

But the idealism lives on.

If they were thrown in the same situation again, they said they would have done the same thing.

In fact, when Yap first heard the controversial tapped conversation between President Arroyo and former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, she cried.

"Ordinary people, small people can do a lot if they stand up for truth," she said.

The 1986 "Marvelous 35" refused to participate in cheating. They took a leap of faith, and they landed in the arms of the Filipino people.

THE PEOPLE

We stopped a rebel convoy

By Danilo Villarante

MY FRIENDS—Ferdie Abesamis, Beng Novales, Edgar and Joyce Esguerra—and I were listening to Radio Bandido when June Kiethley raised an alarm about a Metrocom convoy on Edsa moving toward ABS-CBN, then held by rebel forces.

It is a short distance from our place in Kamias, Quezon City, so we dashed to the area in two cars and positioned ourselves on Bohol Avenue near the corner of Scout Borromeo to barricade the street. A couple more vehicles joined us.

Within 15 minutes, we saw this slow moving military convoy led by a Lancer car followed by an armored personnel carrier and two trucks of soldiers turning right to Bohol Avenue.

"Ayan na! Ayan na!" we screamed. From that moment, we couldn't do anything but follow tensely the convoy moving closer and closer until it stopped in front of us.

The driver of the lead vehicle, Lt. Rene Cruz, came out to talk to Ferdie, our negotiator.

He informed us that they came from Camp Crame and were sent to augment and relieve the rebel forces holding ABS-CBN. Much to our relief, the story was true. We didn't stand a chance against their firepower.

Before leaving Bohol Avenue, we hauled steel beams from a nearby compound and laid them on the street. A company nearby parked its dump trucks beside the steel beams. Any vehicle coming in had to take a slow zigzag drive to ABS-CBN.

We still have a big laugh when we recall the day we stopped a rebel convoy. It was a wonderfully crazy day!

THE PALACE

So ended the reign of the Marcos men at Padre Faura

From page A1

at MFA because it was still open for the signatures of MFA personnel.

We were able to persuade the sentries at Camp Crame to let us in on foot.

Ralph asked to see Enrile. Enrile read the statement and remarked that the signatures of some assistant ministers were missing. Did that mean that those AsMins were pro-Marcos? Vic said that because of traffic and communication disruptions, those AsMins were not able to report to office or could not be contacted. Enrile promised to give the statement to President Aquino.

Back in the office, I drafted a curt note to the diplomatic corps, initialed by Ralph, informing them that "Mrs. Corazon C. Aquino and Mr. Salvador H. Laurel have taken their oaths of office as President and Vice President of the Philippines, respectively," and requesting the ambassadors and heads of mission "to inform their respective governments accordingly." Special couriers were sent to deliver the note. The Foreign Service was also instructed accordingly.

Extraordinary times

I soon received a call from the Netherlands Embassy's No. 2 man, Mr. Peter Palthe, who had been instructed by his ambassador to check with me. For reasons of protocol, I should have asked to talk with Ambassador Wieger Hellema himself, but these were extraordinary times.

Relations between the foreign ministry and the European ambassadors had deteriorated ever since they attended the funeral services for former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino.

The then chair of the ambassadors of the European Community—I think it was the French—had called on acting Foreign Minister Castro as a matter of courtesy and informed him that the European ambassadors would attend the funeral. Castro was not one to take this lying down. He reminded the ambassador that they were accredited to the head of state and not to Cardinal Sin or Mrs. Aquino. Nevertheless, the European ambassadors did attend the funeral rites. From then on, all important matters needing some personal attention were done through me as assistant minister for European affairs. Castro barely talked with the European ambassadors and the ambassadors were quite happy with this arrangement.

This was my exchange with Mr. Palthe. He asked, "Who is in charge of MFA?" AsMin Gonzales who initialed the note in your hands. "How about AFM Castro?" He is not here, but he supports us. "How about the Philippine Army troops under Gen. [Roland] Pattugalan in Pasig?" They will not fire against the people. The Aquino forces are in full control of the whole country. "How about President Marcos?" I do not know what his plans are.

Ambassadors knew more

When Mr. Palthe asked me about the troops under General Pattugalan in Pasig, I was surprised at his knowledge of events. But, as I was to find out later when I accompanied each of the European ambassadors when they paid courtesy calls on President Aquino and Vice President Laurel, they knew more than I did about what was going on in the Philippines. They were in contact with opposition leaders long before Edsa to the point of familiarity with Cory and Doy.

Mr. Palthe then said that the Netherlands had just assumed the chairmanship of the European Community, that a meeting of the European foreign ministers had been scheduled for the next day at The Hague, and that the foreign ministers would be informed of the contents of the MFA note. Indeed the following day, the EC foreign ministers issued from The Hague a strong statement welcoming the change of government in Manila.

Late that afternoon, Castro phoned. I said I thought he was in Tokyo. "I could not proceed because the airport was closed," he said.

I asked him if he had been at the Marcos oath-taking in Malacañang that morning. "No, I have a stomach upset. I would like to request something of you, as one colleague of another," Castro said.

Flying to exile

What is it? I said. "That we treat each other decently." Sure, no problem about that. "Will you allow me to go to my office to pack my things? I have been told that security is very tight and I would not want to suffer the humiliation of being turned away by the guards." No problem as far as I am concerned, but you must talk with Ralph, I said.

At around 9 o'clock that night, helicopters left Malacañang to ferry the Marcoses to Clark Air Base. Before 10 p.m., the Marcoses and their entourage were flying to exile in Honolulu.

Wednesday, February 26

The following morning I saw acting Foreign Minister Pacifico Castro in his office, now gloomy and deserted where before it was a hub of activity. He was packing his papers, books and personal memorabilia. A foreigner from a news agency was doing a filmed interview with him, a backgrounder, not for immediate broadcast.

"Your Ministry was one of the props of the Marcos dictatorship. You defended it abroad and showed it in rosy colors." That is our job.

"Were you aware of the civil rights violations, the killings and torture of innocent civilians under Mr. Marcos?" Our Supreme Court had ruled time and again that President Marcos's was the legitimate administration. The Supreme Court dismissed on the merits all the cases brought against Mr. Marcos.

"Please do not talk of legalities. The Supreme Court was blind, but you are an intelligent man, your diplomats are intelligent men, did you not see the corruption, profligacy, rapaciousness, atrocities committed by the Marcoses, which are now coming to light in droves?" We only followed orders.

The Nuremberg defense. I thought, does Castro not know that this defense did not work for the Nazis? But then, what other defense can we diplomats use? We are far from the scene and therefore see no evil and hear no evil.

We were called to the lobby. Vice President Salvador Laurel was coming to take up his post as foreign minister. Castro positioned himself nearest the door, as in a reception line. Everyone avoided him. I stood next to Castro and made small talk. The Indonesian ambassador arrived, nodded to Castro, shook hands with me, and made a beeline for Ralph Gonzales's office. A snub, if ever there was one. Castro suffered many of them and that was why I stood beside him, trying to shield him.

Fallen warrior

False alarm! Laurel was not coming after all. Castro said, "Johnny, please come with me. Let us say goodbye to the staff." We made the rounds of the offices. Castro quickly shook hands with each employee. "Thank you for your cooperation during my tenure." The employees were close to tears and could not speak. Castro had often been hard on them but now that he was down, they seemed to sympathize with the fallen warrior.

Thursday, February 27

"VP Laurel is coming!" This time it was for real. Castro again positioned himself at the door. When Laurel arrived with his entourage, Castro welcomed him, introduced himself as the acting foreign minister. He then stayed put to the left of Laurel and no one could dislodge him from that position.

We had hardly seated ourselves and collected our thoughts when Castro began his formal words of welcome. He again introduced himself as the acting foreign minister and said he was turning over to Vice President Laurel an intact and efficient Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Service. He said he would give his wholehearted cooperation to the new administration and Laurel could count on him. He gave Laurel the 1983 Revised Philippine Foreign Service Code—a really important handiwork of Castro—and several publications of the Foreign Service Institute so the Vice President "would have a good concept of [the] MFA's work and capabilities."

Laurel thanked Castro and assured the officers and employees that they would be treated fairly by the new administration, and that he was counting on their support for the good of the country.

So ended the reign of AFM Castro. Gracefully, as in the Appomattox Courthouse, and with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indisputably united.

(Appomattox is the town in Virginia where the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses Grant on April 9, 1865, ending the American Civil War.)

So also ended the reign of Ralph Gonzales, without so much as a brief mention. Ignored altogether. Congratulations to the master tactician AFM Castro. But my admiration goes also to Ralph who did not put up a fight for the limelight. Both of them had the good of the MFA at heart and they worked to preserve its integrity.

Urbanity, loyalty

In those last moments, was I pro-Castro or pro-Ralph? Castro had requested urbanity from me, hence my presence beside him. Ralph was not visible, so the question of loyalty did not arise.

I made a memorandum for the Vice President, recounting the action of the MFA vis-à-vis foreign countries. Deputy Foreign Minister Jose D. Ingles showed the memo to Castro. On the margin of the sentence where I wrote that I told Minister Palthe that Castro supported us—my intention in saying this was to save Castro's career—Castro made a handwritten note contradicting me: "I only said, 'We are colleagues. Let us treat each other with decency.'"

I am still an admirer of Castro. I am happy that thanks to Vice President Laurel, in spite of the animosities of the Edsa revolution, all of us, including Castro, were allowed to continue serving our country.

(The author is a retired career ambassador and was assistant minister for European affairs during the Edsa revolution.)

THE MILITARY

FVR cried while talking to Marcos on the phone

From page A1

fee, warmed up the PC/INP jeep issued to me, and set off.

The crowd was thick in front of Crame's Gate 2. I could not turn right because of the barbed wire barricades.

I requested the people leaning on the roadblock to give way, explaining that my presence as CDO was needed inside.

I made the "L" (or "Laban") sign with a smile.

They advised me to kill the engine, and pushed the jeep carefully until we reached Gate 1.

But the men from the Special Action Forces, in black fatigues and combat gear, refused to open it. I told them to inform their commanding officer, Maj. Reynaldo Velasco, that I was the CDO.

They quickly let me through, pushing out those who sneaked in behind the jeep. Except for the SAF, there were few military men inside. Some were wearing khaki uniforms but were unarmed.

I could not find the outgoing CDO. Brig. Gen. Jacinto Galang, PC chief of staff, instructed me to phone all duty officers and tell them to contact their men by any means and order them to come to Crame.

People as strategy

I hurried to my office and assembled my staff to implement the order.

The PC Operation Center under Col. Alexander Aguirre was busy formulating strategies for the camp's defense.

The overall scheme was to create traffic jams/choke points; install roadblocks and obstacles of any kind, including big vehicles, on all approaches to Crame; arrange human barricades at all intersections; and seal every space on the ground to bar the movements of government troops.

Friendly forces were also mobilized to mount rallies on Mendiola and Nagtahan.

At the break of dawn I rushed from the HPC building to my office to change into my camouflage uniform.

Ver had given me the uniform when I was his assistant secretary at GHQ for more than three years. I remember telling him then that if I died wearing the uniform and my death was caused by the one who gave it to me, it would have historical value.

The remark flashed in my mind when I saw Ver on TV seeking authority to bomb Camp Crame if we did not surrender. (Marcos refused, saying he had no intention of hurting anyone.)

Before I left my office, the camp commander, Brig. Gen. Paterno Lomango, instructed me to get M-16 Armalites from his stockroom for my men.

We were 18 officers and men in all, including ex-Philippine Military Academy cadet John Castriciones, the son of my deputy who had come looking for his father. He served as my bodyguard and intelligence agent.

From the third floor of the HPC building, one could view the sea of humanity below, shouting with raised hands, forefingers and thumbs forming the "L" sign.

Nuns and other sympathizers bearing food for the reformists were allowed entry into Crame.

Blasted Radio Veritas

And then the Radio Veritas broadcast stopped. Our Command Post learned that loyalist forces had blasted the station transmitter in Malolos, Bulacan.

But Keithley soon came back on the air on another station.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Ermita and Col. Honesto Isleta were very effective propagandists, continually supplying the radio station with the names of the units and commanders in the field.

Movements

The air was tense when Enrile, with Colonels Jose Almonte, Gregorio Honasan, Tirso Gador and Victor Erfe, and other security men, joined Ramos at Crame.

Ramos announced that the PMA had been abandoned by its superintendent. Representatives of each class soon arrived at Crame to confirm their defection.

A number of field commanders phoned, announcing their decision to defect.

Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner, AFP operations chief and commander of the elite Scout Rangers who were to implement any order to attack us, was in contact with our Command Post.

Ramos advised him through the airwaves to analyze orders from Malacañang: "I trust your integrity, so make your own decision."

He gave the same advice to Brig. Gen. Artemio Tadiar, who led a dozen tanks and two battalions of Marines sent from Fort Bonifacio to "pulverize" us.

WHOOPING it up on Edsa: Ramos, Butz Aquino

Good news! Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Gutang, PC Recom 12 commander, said he had dispatched a contingency force—105 officers and men under Maj. Billy Bibit—aboard two Philippine Airlines planes.

Expected time of arrival: 3 p.m.

But the loyalists had control of the airport, and armored vehicles and Aviation Security Command personnel surrounded the contingency force upon arrival. Bibit was forced to submit his men to avert a bloody face-off.

Marcos appeared on TV in a fit of anger, but proudly said he had foiled the group and would throw the captives to a remote island.

Mission to take Crame

So Tadiar and his Marines left Fort Bonifacio with the mission to take Crame.

People power moved into action, each group organized by a leader and employing its own strategy.

Flowers, cigarettes, snacks, even lunch packs, were offered to the tank crews with persuasive words, smiles and songs. Nuns bravely stood in front of the tanks.

And the miracle happened: The loyalist forces turned back.

There was also an attempt to test-fire 81mm mortars placed behind the concrete fence at Aguinaldo. Target: Crame.

But Col. Wilfredo Cruz, who manned the GHQ Operation Center, was a PC officer. He could not have his fellow constables annihilated.

At the end of the day we learned that US President Ronald Reagan's offer for asylum in the United States had been transmitted to Marcos, on condition that he step down peacefully. There was also the unverified report that the Marcoses had left the Palace.

At the Command Post, Espino shed his shoes, stretched his feet, and rested his back on the wall. Golez sat down beside him.

Some officers lay down on the floor to get some sleep. We were at ease because we knew that people were keeping vigil outside.

Feb. 24:

At daybreak we learned that the Marines and the tanks repelled yesterday had moved to White Plains.

They had penetrated the Logistics Command by maneuvering to Katipunan, then to Boni Serrano.

The people massed in the area were dispersed with tear gas.

We were quite alarmed because the Logistics Command controlled armaments and ammunition.

We also learned that the Air Force had been ordered to bomb Crame to force our surrender.

At about 6 a.m. Enrile told the Command Post that the bombing would start in about five minutes. "President Marcos expects us to decide to give up our cause. No more turning back," he said softly.

Ramos rose from his seat. "I suggest that some of us go down, especially the members of the media, to minimize casualties," he said, grinning.

Enrile turned to Honasan and Gador, and told them to follow him. Others left in haste.

'We're dead'

Ramos strode out leisurely. Brig. Gen. Rene Cruz walked abreast of him, and I walked behind them.

Cruz whispered to me: "*Patay na tayo* (We're dead)."

I replied, making sure Ramos would not hear: "*Kasama naman natin si* Boss, sir (We're with Boss, anyway)."

As we reached the first floor, we heard choppers hovering overhead. I rejoined my soldiers in my office.

Maneuvers

Lomango told me that Col. Rolando Abadilla would lead the attack from behind the stockade and break through my office as his route.

I said I had enough men to defend the area with the 18 M16s he had issued. I asked for a .30 cal machine gun.

I sent three soldiers to scout around the camp and outside. One went with Castriciones. All of them sent back reports every 15 minutes.

Soon the helicopters returned. I told my men to concentrate their fire on a chopper as it drew close.

The helicopters were hovering over the grandstand, but the HPC building obstructed my view. I lost sight of them and as they landed, their engines stopped—and there was a sudden silence.

I motioned my men to assume combat position.

After 20 minutes Ramos' voice was heard over the radio announcing that the helicopters under the command of Col. Antonio Sotelo, with the mission to attack Crame, had defected.

Seven choppers were now on our side.

Gunships

We learned that Marcos had ordered an airborne commando at Villamor to destroy Sotelo's gunship. Sotelo dispatched a chopper to thwart any attempt at takeoff by a loyalist aircraft.

He attacked a loyalist aircraft inside Villamor, totally destroying it. Pilots were suddenly afraid to fly the planes on standby.

Two gunships flew over Malacañang on a harassment mission. They fired rockets into the open compound, damaging a vehicle and throwing the Palace into panic.

Meanwhile, Castriciones and his escort had returned, a certain Romeo Galang in tow.

They caught the young man, who had claimed to be from Luisita, Tarlac, with a live hand grenade. I turned him over to the PC intelligence unit.

Ramos next ordered Task Force Delta to take Channel 4. Marcos was then on the air, denying that he had fled.

The loyalist soldiers who tried to defend the station paid the price. Marcos was cut off the air.

Channel 4 was under rebel control when the telecast resumed.

'No turning back'

When Marcos called the Command Post, Enrile took the phone, listened, and said: "Mr. President, there is no more turning back. It is enough that I have served you for the last 20 years."

Again he paused to listen. Then he said, "No, we cannot make any commitment."

"Here's Eddie," he said, and gave the phone to Ramos.

"Manong, this is Eddie," Ramos said, then stopped to listen. Soon, tears were trickling from his eyes.

"No longer possible, no more turning back. We will find out from the Cory group. What I can assure you is your safety and that of your family," Ramos said in a low tone.

He put the phone down, his face melancholy.

Later, some members of the general and special staff whom we saw on TV with Ver arrived at the Command Post led by Commodore Serafio Martillano, the AFP deputy chief of staff. I also noted the presence of Rep. Rene Cayetano.

Before nightfall Marcos appeared on TV, declaring a state of national emergency and imposing a curfew.

But the people defiantly remained on the streets. No one dared implement his order.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The **Privatization and Management Office ("PMO"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC")**, intends to procure the services of a financial advisor ("FA") in connection with the privatization of the shares of stock of **Al Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines (AAIIBP)** under a success fee arrangement.

   The Approved Budget for the Contract ("**ABC**") is **FOUR MILLION PESOS (P4M)**, to be paid by the PMO and chargeable against the success fee which shall **not exceed two percent (2%)** of the total sales proceeds from the privatization of the shares of AAIIBP.

   The fees for the FA shall be payable as follows:

PHASE	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	FEES
I – Valuation	Preparation of valuation report, appraisal, information memorandum and privatization plan	Not to exceed Four Million Pesos (P4M)
II – Implementation	Implementation of the privatization plan, as approved by the Privatization Council	Not to exceed 2% of the total sales proceeds, less the fixed fee paid for the Valuation Phase

2. The PMO now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Financial Advisory Services. Interested FAs must submit their LOIs on or before **6 March 2006 from 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m.**, by hand, to **BAC, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City** and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom for a minimal fee of P5,000.00.

   Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the **Opening of Eligibility Documents on 10 March 2006; 10:00 a.m.** at the 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

3. The PMO-BAC shall draw up the short list of FAs from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 ("RA 9184)" and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A ("IRR-A"). The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed five (5) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

   a. 30% – General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and the individual experience of the principal and key staff, including relevant experience of the principal and key staff from previous employment and privatization experience;
   b. 30% – Experience of the FA in Banking and Financial Institution;
   c. 20% – Qualifications of personnel who may be assigned to the project;
   d. 10% – Dealings of the FA with the GRP;
   e. 10% – Experience in Islamic Banking.

   The passing rate to be short listed is 70%.

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of RA 9184. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, only bids from short listed FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the PMO. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

   The PMO-BAC shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation*** procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders, to be obtained from the PMO.

5. Interested FAs may obtain the eligibility and short listing requirements, and the other bidding documents, from the PMO-BAC at the address given below from Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the short listed FAs shall be on **3 April 2006, 10:00 a.m.**

6. The PMO/PMO-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any formality in the bid requirements, declare the bidding a failure, annul the bidding process, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders, and award the contract to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Government.

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PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
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INK COST: ₱ 645 (Hi Capacity Black)
₱ 495 (Standard Black)
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EDSA I 20

THE PEOPLE

Candies, water delight ralliers

By Petra Vinteres

WHEN THE REVOLUTION broke out, I was 62 years old and was trying to figure out how my business would survive, with orders from companies dwindling. I was into homemade sweets since I retired as a mathematics and physics professor.

From my home on Harvard Street, I walked 10 blocks to Edsa, carrying two plastic bags of candies and disposable cups. The street was full of people. Not a single vehicle could be seen.

I borrowed a table from one of the houses. They not only gave me a table but also helped me spread the cups and sweets on it. I did not have to ask them to get water. They filled the cups with drinking water. We did not introduce ourselves to each other. We just automatically worked together.

I called the attention of the marching people to our service by throwing candies to them.

In an instant the table was empty. The girls brought the table back and I went marching with the people. There were many people on the sidewalk watching the marchers. Some of them who knew me waved and clapped their hands, amazed at seeing me marching, too.

I did the same thing the next day. The girls at the same house knew me by then and when they saw me, they took out the table, laid down bottles of water, the cups and the sweets. After the table was emptied, I went home and began planning for the next day's delights.

I made *polvoron*, *suman* cassava, spending days and nights preparing them while listening to the radio for developments at Edsa.

I worked continuously, not sleeping, not taking meals. I just swallowed *polvoron* and water every now and then. This went on for three days. As soon as I had two plastic bags full of *suman* and *polvoron*, I would run to our parish church to give them to the ralliers.

When I heard over the radio that Marcos had fled, I cried, thanked God and fell asleep.

Brotherhood of Doctors forged

From page A1

medical community and be counted among the people who wanted change. We were prepared to offer a part of ourselves to achieve it.

We proceeded in a convoy of vehicles to Edsa and encamped in a waiting shed near Camp Aguinaldo in front of the main gate of Camp Crame. We took care of the swelling crowd, dispensing medicines, mostly analgesics bought with our individual contributions.

A second batch of students came with medicines, solicited from consultants' clinics and from the meager resources of the student council.

On our second day at Edsa, we had an argument with a representative of the Red Cross who told us to remove our improvised "red cross" badges. She said we were neither authorized nor trained.

This did not dampen our youthful idealism. Although aged at least 22 years, most of us were in a state of "suspended adolescence" to better cope with the length of training in our chosen profession.

We were later requested to move into Camp Crame to take care of soldiers and the other people inside. The security checkpoint at the front gate became our new station.

Many times, information from "inside" would reach us of the possibility of an encounter and the need for volunteers for an "on-the-scene" medical team.

Each time, we would say our goodbyes to classmates and friends, not knowing what would happen. Every time we returned to our station, there would be handshakes and hugs. We would always say a prayer of thanks that all went well and our friends were back.

And then word spread that Sikorsky helicopters had been dispatched to attack Crame. This time, no one asked for volunteers.

We all knew that it would be most dangerous outside our station. Yet, all of us stuffed our bags with gauze and bandages. We hugged each as a sign of friendship and said farewell to schoolmates who had become our friends and friends who had become our brothers.

In fact, it was a turning point in the revolution. The Sikorskys that came were allies, not enemies.

Back at school, we decided to build on our new relationship as brothers. Forged under the trying times of the Edsa People Power revolution, we formed the Beta Delta Fraternity, the Brotherhood of Doctors from the DLSU College of Medicine.

Youngest 'Guyito' artist dies at 25

ROMEO FORBES JR. was the youngest of Guyito's 20 artists. RUDY ESPERAS

From page A1

young artists in their mid-twenties, Forbes had a hit show last June at the Glorietta 4 Art Space. His show consisted of large and medium-scale oil and acrylic works he earlier did as illustrations for the children's eco-fable, "Elias and His Trees." All the works were sold.

It was Forbes's first—and as it turned out, only—solo show. Previously, he had been featured in duo or group shows with established or emergent artists such as Anton Balao and the Samonte brothers, Jeff and Marvin, who also all painted Guyito. In almost all instances, collectors and art lovers snapped up Forbes's highly colorful and magical works.

Forbes first broke into the art scene by winning the grand prize in oil or acrylic of the Petron art contest in 2001 when he was 20. (The grand prize for watercolor was won by another young artist, Yveese Belen, who became Forbes's girlfriend and was at his bedside when he died.)

Even before Petron, Forbes had won the juror's prize in the PLDT contest. After Petron, he went on to score a "grand slam" by similarly winning the grand prize in the Metrobank and Shell contests.

Happy childhood

A native of Obando, Bulacan, Forbes was born on May 29, 1980. He apparently drew his artistic roots from the folk culture of the town famous for hosting a shrine to the Blessed Mother that draws devotees from all over the country who have problems with fertility. The river town is also famous for its agriculture and fishery as well as for its colorful folk art.

Perhaps because he had a happy childhood in Obando, Forbes found his mark in painting colorful naïf canvases that were redolent with childhood memories. He painted one-dimensional figures the way a child would, endowing them with multimensionality and depth through adept composition and breath-taking colors.

Forbes had an unerring sense of color. His trademark colors were yellows, oranges, reds, blues and purples that spontaneously whirled without canceling one another out, but melded and mixed to create a merry canvas.

Even the art market abroad took notice. Last November, this author found Forbes and the Artery, his manager, in Singapore arranging a show there. He was booked for shows starting this June in several Singapore galleries.

Optimistic 'Guyito'

His work for the Guyito series in connection with the INQUIRER's 20th anniversary last year exhibited his best strengths as a naïf artist and vibrant colorist. Forbes had said he worked on the mascot for a week, giving it yellow horns, green hair, matching red face and body, with hooves of different colors.

In another indication of his happy childhood, Forbes painted four kids on Guyito's stomach—two on each side. Here were the artist's trademark one-dimensional figures, with their crooked hairless heads, eyes of different colors (one red, one black) and arms with four-fingered hands trying to catch a thunderstorm of letters. The letters of course were the symbols of literacy and learning. The work was titled "Mumunting Hakbang ni Juan de la Cruz (Small steps of Juan de la Cruz)."

In his beautiful Tagalog, Forbes explained the concept of the work:

"Ito ay naglalarawan ng pag-asa ng Batang Pinoy na makapagtapos ng pag-aaral. Makamit ang magandang kinabukasan sa pamamagitan ng nararapat at ninanais na edukasyon. Ang mga letrang tila kumakalat pataas ay simbolo ng walang humpay na kaalaman. Di dapat maging hadlang ang kahirapan sa minimithing tagumpay (This illustrates the hope of the Filipino child to finish school. To have a bright future by means of a good and proper education. The letters that seem to spread upwards symbolize unlimited knowledge. Poverty should not limit one's desire for success)."

The work shows Forbes' unfaltering optimism, his youthful sense of possibilities, and the unlimited reach of his imagination, which seems to have been limited so tragically by death and disease.

The body of Romeo Forbes lies at the family home at 112 Flamingo St., Panghulo, Obando, Bulacan. Burial is on March 2 at Arkong Bato Cemetery, Valenzuela City.

Port of Manila stinks, Prince Charles writes

LONDON—BRITAIN'S PRINCE CHARLES faced more unwelcome publicity on Wednesday with the release of a private journal in which he voiced fears about corruption in the Chinese army and called the port of Manila awful and smelly.

The heir to the throne is suing the Mail on Sunday newspaper in London's High Court for publishing extracts of the journal, which covers a trip to Asia for the handover of the British colony of Hong Kong to China.

Charles has argued his journals should remain private. But the journal at the center of the case, which he titled "The Handover of Hong Kong" or "The Great Chinese Takeaway," was released on Wednesday to journalists covering the proceedings.

After leaving Hong Kong, the prince visited the Philippines.

He describes Manila as "an awful, smelly polluted harbor absolutely clogged with filth and rubbish." But he also states: "The Philippines were incredibly friendly and warmhearted and pleased to see the British." He praises British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"He is a most enjoyable person to talk to—perhaps partly due to his being younger than me! He also gives the impression of listening to what one says, which I find astounding," the prince writes.

Charles is suing for breach of copyright and confidentiality in a case aimed at determining whether members of the British royal family are entitled to the same level of privacy as ordinary members of the public. *Reuters*

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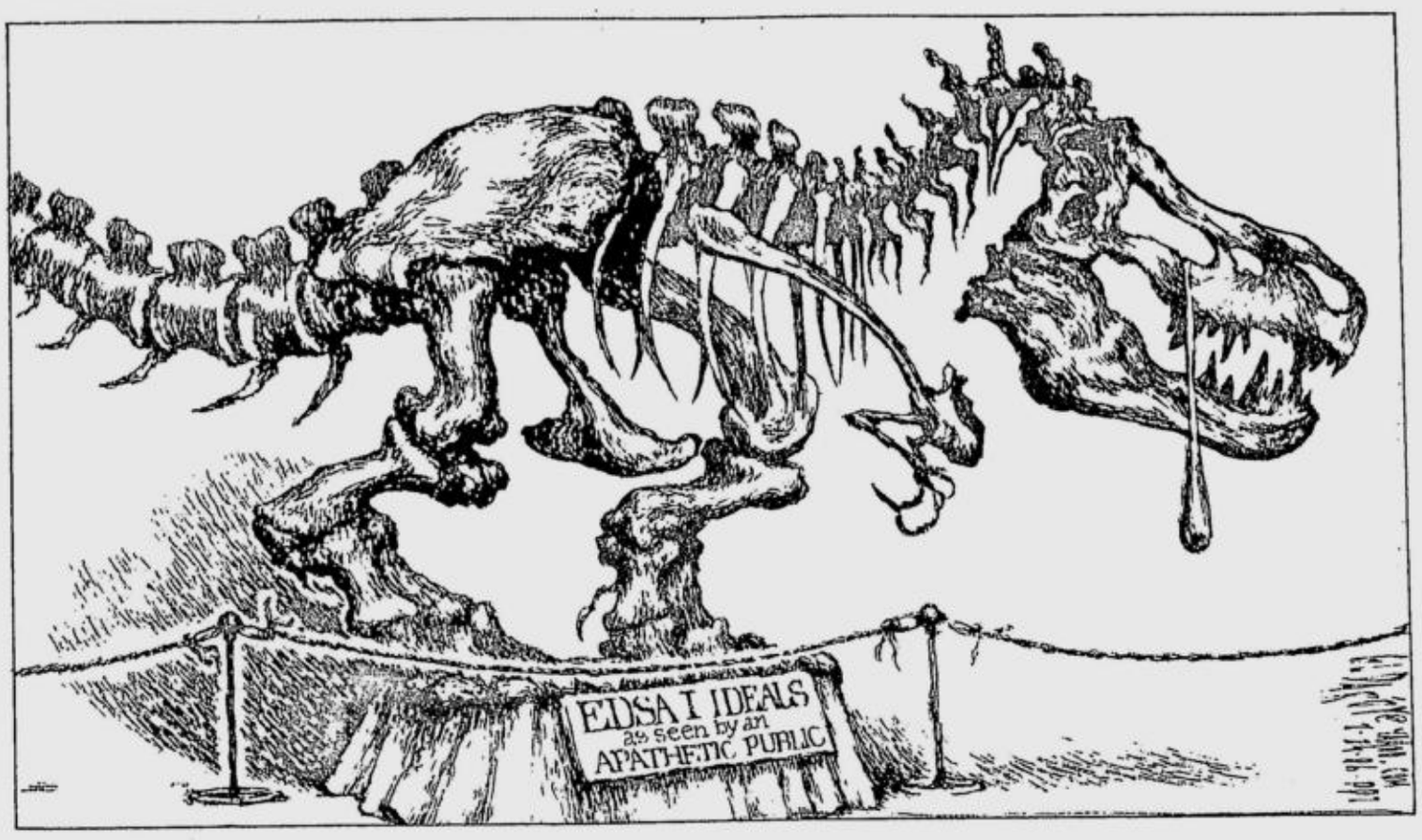


Why Edsa

EDITORIAL

WHAT FILIPINOS SET OUT TO DO IN METRO Manila, during those historic February days two decades ago, their countrymen also did throughout the rest of the land. Baguio City, Cebu City, Davao City were just some of the other major urban centers that saw a citizenry rise up, regardless of the consequences, to make a stand. And so the whole country stood—the people would not budge—and as a result, Ferdinand Marcos began what he thought was a retreat to the Ilocos that became a route to exile.

When Jaime Cardinal Sin and Butz Aquino called upon the people to rescue Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel V. Ramos from almost certain arrest and possible death, the confrontation between the people and Marcos was accelerated. But it had already begun—indeed, it had, for most, begun on Aug. 21, 1983—and the one million who had shown up at Rizal Park for Cory Aquino's victory rally proved that people were prepared to keep the confrontation going however long it took.

The idea at the time was civil disobedience against a government declared by the bishops as having lost the moral authority to govern. When the Edsa Revolution began, Corazon Aquino was, in fact, in Cebu City as part of the gearing-up for what everyone expected to be a long, drawn-out campaign.

As had been demonstrated in an escalating commitment to no longer be afraid and reclaim the freedoms that had been shamefully surrendered to Marcos in 1972—our freedoms and right to speak out—since 1983, the public was in it for the long haul. In that sense, it is perhaps mistaken to focus on the glorious days of Edsa as a freak accident. If it had miraculous attributes to it, it was the transformation of the Armed Forces from the enforcer and beneficiary of the dictatorship through armed might, to an institution that regained what Marcos had lost: a sense of self-control.

It would have been easy to crush people under the tread of armored personnel carriers; it would have been, considering the "New Society's" bloody heritage, justifiable to mow down the crowds with machine guns. It would have been easy to continue the original plans to undertake a bloody coup, to resume its objectives once defections made it possible to wage a wider, bloodier revolt. The Armed Forces did not: having been saved peacefully, our military officers and men contributed to saving the country as peacefully as they could. That was the miracle, and it was exemplified by Juan Ponce Enrile, chief enforcer and one of the prime beneficiaries of martial law, apologizing to the people. No other Marcos-era lackey ever did that, and Enrile deserves credit for it to this day, regardless of what he's done since.

There are times when the many threads of a nation's history suddenly get woven together to create a tapestry. In 1983, Filipinos discovered empathy—first for Ninoy, then for all the martyrs who died when, in Jose Rizal's phrase, the country was asleep in the darkness—and then they discovered not only that they missed, but craved, democracy. The long tradition of peaceful protest that saw mass demonstrations for independence in the 1930s had sprung back to life. The tradition of eloquence born of the Propaganda Movement was reborn. The instinct for national solidarity of the Revolution, and the near-infinite capacity for sacrifice of the Revolution and Philippine-American War was revived. Most of all, the same desire for decency that had reinvigorated our society in the time of Ramon Magsaysay and the need for personal courage shown during World War II came once more to the fore. The Edsa Revolution happened because the Filipino realized what he had to be: a human being with a compelling need to live up to the imperatives of being Filipino.

Humanity is such that it takes a few to inspire the many to stand together. Destiny is such that the few will only take a stand if the motive power of the many exists to energize the few. It has proven the destiny of all subjugated peoples that there must be the inflexible, the irreconcilable, the stubborn, who will defy what is easier to surrender to—bribery and intimidation—and by so doing, convince the rest that the slave does not have to be a slave. We were a nation of slaves, but it did not mean we wanted to remain in bondage, or that we would always be in that state. For that reason alone—going beyond what it is to be Filipino, and engaging what it means to be human in a world that has long rejected the concept of slavery—Edsa was, because it was what had to be.

Jewel in the dirt

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"I AM THE BEST PERSON TO LEAD THIS nation through the transition," President Macapagal-Arroyo boasted to the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines (Focap) last Tuesday, if the Philippines shifts to a parliamentary form of government.

Most Filipinos think the opposite. GMA would be the worst person to lead a transition, regular, or any other government. We are going through the throes of a proposed Charter change and a shift to a new form of government precisely because of her. We have a host of problems—corruption, poverty, unemployment, poll cheating, gargantuan debts, insufficient income, economic stagnation, etc.—precisely because she is the President. We have the present political instability precisely because of her first five years of governance. The longer she stays in Malacañang, the worse the situation will be. That is why people are marching in the streets. They want her to step down.

Why does she believe she is the "best" when the opinion polls show very clearly that the people don't want her anymore? According to the polls, 80 percent of Filipinos don't want her as their President; her popularity rating is minus 30, the lowest rating of any president in the world. But she has the temerity to claim she is the "best."

* * *

It is understandable why GMA is cold-shouldering the anniversary celebration of People Power I and why former President Fidel V. Ramos is sore for not having a big celebration as in the past years. FVR was one of the heroes of Edsa I; GMA had nothing to do with it. The other heroes of that glorious event, principally former President Corazon Aquino, have asked her to resign.

FVR, on the other hand, wants to relive his glory days. His role in People Power I is about the only thing he can be proud of. Certainly, he can't be proud of his achievements as president. Neither can GMA.

GMA herself was a beneficiary of Edsa II but now that she is the President, she denigrates People Power revolutions. There will be no need for it when we shift to a parliamentary system, she says.

On the contrary, we would need it even more, considering the people who are very interested in it and would most likely control parliament. Just thinking about it would make one shudder in terror. If you think corruption is bad now, wait until we have a parliament. It is like having the present House of Representatives running the whole government: the legislative, executive and judicial departments. The congressmen can do anything they want because there would be no checks and balances in the government. What the party in power wants, it gets. Thievery on a grand scale would be common—even more so than now. It would be another form of dictatorship, with the dictator being the party in power.

In such a case, what can the people do? People Power.

People Power is the most glorious thing that the Filipino people have done and we should be very proud of it. It inspired the whole world, and a number of other countries imitated it to also free themselves from despotic rulers. Now GMA is denigrating it, saying it won't be needed, after she herself benefited from it.

GMA has made its commemoration low key because she is afraid the people may be inspired by that first bloodless revolution 20 years ago and do it again—to her.

* * *

The two-day international conference on tourism and leisure that was just concluded here, is aptly named. It was called "Asia's GEM," short for "Gaming and Entertainment Plus Expo-Conference." The combination of tourism, gaming, entertainment, leisure, recreation and hospitality industries is the newest jewel of countries in providing employment and earning revenue for their governments.

The brightest jewel is of course Las Vegas, which rose from a desert wasteland in Nevada. From the air or from the highway, it shines in the darkness of the desert like so many jewels. Up close, it is even more astounding.

It employs 416,000 employees who earn approximately $7 billion annually in wages, aside from $10 billion in casino revenue.

Casinos have a bad image in the Philippines, but gaming in the world has already evolved into a respectable hotel-gaming-entertainment-recreation business.

There are now "integrated resorts" with, aside from casinos, theme parks, hotels, golf courses, theaters, sporting events, etc. The best singers and entertainers like Frank Sinatra and his Rat Pack performed in Las Vegas. Many of the best championship boxing bouts (like Many Pacquiao's and Brian Villoria's) are held there. Classical performers also perform there. Many tourists go to Las Vegas not to gamble but for the entertainment, the arts, retail shopping and the food.

Thus, the new complexes are like jewels that were collected from the dirt that the old gambling casinos were.

Integrated resorts, or IRs, are the wave of the future. Asia already boasts of IR complexes in Macau, Malaysia and Korea. Singapore and Thailand are poised to follow suit. In the United States, besides Las Vegas, there is Detroit. Even the Indian reservations have their own IRs.

We shouldn't be left behind.

* * *

Alumni of St. James Academy in Malabon will hold their grand reunion tomorrow at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Avenue. The reunion will coincide with the anniversary of the school. It was established by the Maryknoll Sisters in 1928 as a normal school. Later, a high school was added. (Don't confuse it with St. James School, which is neither a Catholic school nor named after a saint.) The reunion will start with a 5 p.m. Mass to be celebrated by priest-alumni of SJA. Don't miss it.

Damaged culture, damaged state

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE REAL TRAGEDY IS NOT THAT EDSA'S legacy will be forgotten, but that it will be misunderstood. During the anti-Marcos struggle, we pined so much for democracy that we romanticized it, and now that reality hasn't lived up to myth, we are tempted to discard democracy and say that fascism wasn't so bad after all.

Democracy is when the majority decides what is good for the country. Philippine democracy is where the majority decides what is good for itself. Between the two is a world of a difference.

Take the jeepney, king of Manila's roads. A "good" jeepney driver will pick up passengers wherever they are conveniently found, and drop them off as close as possible to their destination.

Who cares about loading and unloading zones? They represent a public interest in orderly traffic, but that interest is purely abstract for the Filipino. It becomes real only if you are driving behind an annoying jeepney that stops whenever a passenger boards or disembarks, whether it is in the middle of the road or at the foot of a flyover or right smack in an intersection in front of a green light.

Good service is personal service, customized because it is humanized. A driver who respects loading and unloading zones is cold-hearted. Why drop off a *taho* vendor too far from his daily route? How un-Filipino, to numb oneself to human needs just to conform to callous rules!

No wonder then that the American writer James Fallows was reviled hereabouts—though he has since been vindicated by many Filipinos—when he spoke famously of our "Damaged Culture." Writing in the Atlantic Monthly in 1987, he found the Pinoy as totally bereft of any sense of civic duty.

"Filipinos pride themselves on their lifelong loyalty to family, schoolmates, compadres, members of the same tribe, . . the same barangay. [B]ut their culture draws the boundaries of decent treatment [so] narrowly . . . they exclude at any given moment 99 percent of the other people in the country. Because of . . . this lack of useful nationalism, people treat each other worse in the Philippines than in any other Asian country ... The tradition of political corruption and cronyism, the extremes of wealth and poverty, the tribal fragmentation, the local elite's willingness to make a separate profitable peace with colonial powers—all reflect a feeble sense of national interest. Practically everything that is public in the Philippines seems neglected or abused."

Haven't you wondered: When we Filipinos *march* on Edsa, we embody our loftiest civic selves dreaming of a better life for all. Yet the moment we *drive* on Edsa, it's dog-eat-dog all over again!

The legal philosopher Unger explains that in Third World countries, the declared spiritual ideals are one thing, but the actual code people live by is another. In our "official political dogma," we believe in rights, laws and the "cult of consent." But in real life, we treat "each other as patrons and clients and trading in favors and dependencies, [showing] almost complete disbelief in all institutions not founded on blood, property, or power ... as if a moment of personal presence were worth a thousand promises and as if any exercise of power could be tolerated so long as the veil of sentiment covered it."

Our democracy's public face is one big Oprah Winfrey show, where "the political becomes the personal" and feeling and intuition count more than impersonal ideologies—while in its hidden face, real decisions are made a la The Godfather through a tight network of elites. Fallows said that we reminded him of Mafia families: "total devotion within the circle, total war on the outside."

People Power thrives on the "Oprahfication" of politics. The good news is that it empowers the isolated individual, gives him a voice, and tells him not to be embarrassed and to speak his heart. But the heart is moved by theater and dramatic anecdotes, while the public good is often found in cold facts, uninspiring and technocratic. The bad news, therefore, is that because the mass of our people are unorganized and non-ideological, populist democracy becomes an easy tool for what Claro Recto called "political ventriloquism" and allows the best organized conspiracies to project their voices as that of the sovereign.

Edsa restored the sacred principle of "one man, one vote," but it did not give back "Power to the People." It merely restored the old families and local warlords and, next, it purveyed high-profile media celebrity into political power. Saddest of all, the Filipino democrat couldn't complain, because that is precisely how our democracy works.

Edsa installed populist, not a normative, governance. It is a democracy of counting votes, not weighing values. It hearkens the noisiest and most Machiavellian, not the most principled.

Living proof of non-normativity is President Macapagal-Arroyo herself. How can she now insist on "no permit, no rally"? Why, did the crowds at Edsa I and II hold rally permits? Why then does the main beneficiary of Edsa II now impose on her enemies a requirement she hadn't met? Even Marcos and Estrada hesitated to sic their troops on unarmed civilians, yet GMA does it sanctimoniously in the name of the law.

How can GMA say "The world will not forgive an Edsa III," when she was the main beneficiary of Edsa II, when it is she whose sins now beckon to be sanctified afresh by People Power?

Before GMA worries about the world forgiving an Edsa III, first she must ask whether her own people have forgiven her betrayal of the spirit of Edsa.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Nostalgia trip

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

SINCE JULY LAST YEAR, DIFFERENT SECTORS disaffected with the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo have tried to harness People Power behind the campaign to overthrow her, with disappointing results.

In the commemoration this week of the 20th anniversary of the first People Power in 1986, faint echoes of this campaign have resurfaced, including widespread rumors of coup plots in the run-up to the anniversary, but these have been drowned by noise of a different kind: loud reminiscences of groups which played conspicuous roles in the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

For these groups, this week is a nostalgia trip recalling the glorious success of Edsa I. The celebration has become a grand reunion of the Edsa I old boys' club of the alumni of the movement that toppled a dictatorship. It's now time to bask in the memory, but it's also time to ask: Will People Power happen again with the same results as Edsa I? The success of Edsa I stands in contrast to the lack of success of attempts during the past eight months to replicate it.

Since February 1986, there have been two people power outbreaks: in January 2001 and in May 2001. The second deposed President Joseph Estrada. The third, on May 1, 2001, was violent. A mob of Estrada supporters stormed Malacañang, but the rebellion was quickly crushed.

We must note that the February 1986 and January 2001 people power uprisings were relatively peaceful, resulting in two presidents being toppled without blood being shed. Since then, the character of people power—basically non-violent—has changed, and after May 2001, the people power movements have become more unruly and turbulent, raising questions whether attempts to revive people power as a mode to change government could be as peaceful as the first two events.

The failure of the campaign to bring a mass of people to the streets to oust President Arroyo has been glibly explained as people power fatigue, but in my opinion, this explanation does not raise the correct questions. The questions that should be asked is why has people power, modeled on People Power I and II, failed to work on Ms Arroyo?

True, Ms Arroyo could be as unpopular or as fiercely reviled as Marcos and Estrada, but we ask, what was it in Marcos and Estrada that sent people to the streets en masse? Why can't groups that have been working on the crowds to go to the streets inflame them with the same rage that drove the crowds that ousted Marcos and Estrada? What is it that makes Ms Arroyo different and that has allowed her to stonewall and survive during the past eight months, despite persistent efforts of her enemies to bring her down?

The coalitions that have combined against the Arroyo regime represent cross-sectoral interests, including the core of the opposition to the regime since the last election (mainly the losers in that election), a variety of civil society groups, former allies of Ms Arroyo, disgruntled military officers some of whom staged mutinies, and lately former President Corazon Aquino and a group of activist and outspoken Catholic bishops who have been in front of the noise brigade denouncing alleged rigging of the last election results, based on the infamous Garcillano tapes.

The composition of the ranks coalesced against Ms Arroyo reflects a broad base, and we can't complaint about their passion for change and their conviction that she should be changed. But why can't they mobilize a critical mass that is impressive enough to influence the military to intervene and break the protracted political impasse?

The campaign to oust Ms Arroyo has been trying to get the constituency that formed the groundswell that swept out Marcos and Estrada. But it has not touched a resonance with that constituency.

What issues are different today from the issues of 1986 and 2001? Have people changed their priorities? What issues matter to them today?

Haven't those who want to relive their successes of 1986 and 2001 come to believe that people power is a static formula for political change fit for all occasions? Times have changed since Marcos and Estrada. Issues that have resonance with the people have changed. Maybe those who have been disappointed by the lack of response to their campaign to oust Ms Arroyo have to look for new issues and examine carefully what factors have emerged that allow her to stonewall.

The political terrain has shifted since 1986. The current anti-Arroyo coalition is trying to engage her in battle over the same terrain of 1986 and 2001, employing the same tactics and strategy.

But this coalition cannot use the success against Marcos and Estrada as the formula against Ms Arroyo. Both Marcos and Estrada had legitimacy problem. They lost legitimacy due to governance issues, like corruption and abuse of power. There is a legitimacy issue against Ms Arroyo over the alleged election-rigging scandal.

Perhaps we have to ask ourselves whether people power as a method of political change has worn thin, and more importantly, whether we are taking it too much for granted that whatever prescriptions for change offered by the politically active class will be followed by the people. After all, it may be safe to say that most of the people want change and for the better. Historically, the political class has taken for granted the intelligence of the masses. The masses know best what's good for them, but they were never integrated into the Edsa movements. They have been marginalized by people power.

Edsa 101

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"EDSA 101" MIGHT WELL BE THE ALTERNAtive title to "Edsa 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan," the latest video documentary produced by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP), produced in observance of the 20th anniversary of the People Power uprising. (Contrary to my assertion in an earlier column, the four-day Edsa event officially began Feb. 22, not Feb. 20 as I wrote.)

The documentary might well seem a rehash of old and well-known events, at least to those of us who were around and may even have been on Edsa during those four days, or at least following all these developments closely. But we are not "Edsa 1986's" primary audience. The video is meant primarily for Filipinos born shortly before or after 1986, who may know little about the first manifestation of "People Power" and what led to it, and thus may care little for the lessons to be learned from Edsa.

As the producers explain, a focus-group discussion conducted among current UP students and out-of-school youth revealed that the "post-Edsa" generation "are barely aware of what those events were and their significance in Philippine history." The young people's knowledge of these events, it turned out, was also "superficial and severely limited."

This may explain why "Edsa 1986" sometimes comes across as an educational video, with animated scenes illustrating salient points (such as the analogy of the confluence of events with a mango ripening), and using what the producers call "an MTV-type program format," including a snazzy "hip-hop" score.

APO Hiking Society member Jim Paredes, one of the few entertainment figures who squarely staked their lives and careers on the "yellow" side during the anti-Marcos protests, pairs with young TV personality Bianca Gonzalez in walking us through the events of Edsa and the personalities behind them.

* * *

BUT even for those who lived through those days, "Edsa 1986" offers new insights and little-known details. At the press preview hosted by FWWPP chair and sparkplug Eggie Apostol, who served "Edsa food" like boiled peanuts and barbecue to her guests, Edsa veterans who already knew how the uprising ended and the many "inside stories" still followed the documentary with anticipation.

As the producers explain, another objective was to acknowledge the roles played by people they called the "real heroes" of Edsa, individuals who played their parts in anonymity, content to let the spotlight shine on the principals.

Thus the documentary features interviews with such background players as Silvestre Afable III, who was Enrile's former special assistant; Edgardo Doromal, a member of the Presidential Security Command who revealed the coup plot to his superiors after being approached by RAM members; Avelino Razon, Fidel Ramos' former security officer; and former Air Force Col. Antonio Sotelo, whose defection to the rebel side marked the "turning point" of Edsa.

The "other side" is represented by ex-Marine Col. Braulio Balbas, who led the "loyalist" forces who broke through the ranks of protesters guarding Camp Aguinaldo but who refused to fire on the rebels inside Camp Crame; Gen. Lisandro Abadia, at the time Army chief for Operations; and Salvador Escudero III, Marcos' minister of agriculture.

Also interviewed for the first time on television are Sisters Terry and Ping, the two nuns whose photo showing them kneeling and wielding rosaries in front of tanks became a symbol of the lopsided "battle" at Edsa.

* * *

FR. CATALINO Arevalo, S.J., a theologian who took active part among the troops at Edsa, provided one of the sharpest insights into the "miraculous" events of those four days.

Was Edsa indeed a "miracle," as some breathlessly claim? It wasn't a miracle in the sense that God descended and performed a supernatural act, Father Arevalo explained. Rather, what took place was "a miracle in the heart of everyone who was there," including, we might add, the soldiers and officers who refrained from firing a shot despite orders from their superiors, and thus brought about an episode in history acknowledged as the Filipino's proudest moment.

What makes viewing "Edsa 1986" a bittersweet experience, at least for this Edsa survivor, is the realization that the high hopes that swelled in everyone's hearts during those four days have been dashed to pieces today, 20 years after.

Especially ironic were the words quoted from the statement of the Catholic bishops shortly after the fraudulent and violent elections of 1986, which points out that a president who ascends to office "through fraud and deceit" has lost the moral right to lead. Perhaps that's why the Arroyo administration would rather that people forgot the events at Edsa.

* * *

DIRECTOR Butch Nolasco and scriptwriters Nancy and Raul Rodrigo deserve credit for organizing the events of Edsa and tracking the chronology and arranging the narrative—and the numerous interviews—into a coherent story that is both compelling and entertaining.

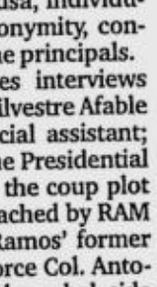
The post-Edsa kids might take the documentary as an exciting retelling of a tension-filled period in recent history. But their parents, while reliving the euphoria and fear of those days, would more likely feel a twinge of regret, if not depression. After all, we've run out of excuses after 20 years, as we had more than enough time—if not exactly the opportunity—to effect the reforms we championed, create the new world we envisioned.

Then again, perhaps it's no longer our mission to fulfill. It might be time to turn over the dream to the next generation, the next Edsa warriors, and pray that they never have to go through it again.

"Edsa 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan" airs on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 9 p.m. over ABS-CBN Channel 2.

Aids to memory

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHILE MOST PEOPLE ASSOCIATE FEBRUARY with Valentine's, I have been remembering two events in our history that also happened in February. On the 4th, we commemorate the outbreak of the Philippine-American War that began with a bang in 1899. An old stone bridge in San Juan used to be the focus of attention on this day, until we moved the site, based on better research, to a little corner in Sta. Mesa, to Sociego Street off Magsaysay Boulevard. On February 17th, we commemorate the execution of Gomez, Burgos and Zamora who were killed with the garrote in what is now Rizal Park in 1872.

If you stand in front of the Rizal monument, you will see a squat white obelisk (very badly done actually) behind and to the left of the Rizal monument that marks the spot where Gomburza were dispatched with that terrifying instrument called the garrote. Contrary to popular belief, the victim placed in a garrote is not killed by slow strangulation; rather death was supposedly quick, and relatively painless, following the breaking of the neck. A metal bar was placed snugly against the victim's neck and, at a given signal, the executioner gave a screw a swift turn and the victim was dead. Since nobody has survived to tell us that this contraption was painless, we presume it was a humane way of execution.

Gomburza were buried in Paco Cemetery, and there they lie forgotten, except for simple commemorations held in Rizal Park every Feb. 17. I have since asked the Archbishop of Manila, Gaudencio (now Cardinal-elect) Rosales, to lead an even simpler commemoration next year in Paco. There will be no boring speeches from historians or politicians; instead Cardinal Rosales could pray the Office of the Dead and sprinkle holy water on the graves, together with the secular clergy who owe a lot to Gomburza and should be made to remember their sacrifice in 1872.

To illustrate how much we have forgotten Gomburza, many years ago a ladies toilet was erected over their common grave. It took a foreigner to call my attention to this. When I told then Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim about it, the toilet was removed within a few hours.

What made this act terrible was that there were a lot of other spots within Paco Cemetery where the toilet could have been built. Why did it have to be over the grave of Gomburza? These three men inspired so many of our heroes, including Rizal and Bonifacio.

When Mariano Gil, parish priest of Tondo, exposed the Katipunan and thus jump-started the Philippine Revolution, there was a wave of arrests, searches and seizures all over Manila. The items found—from daggers to Katipunan papers and documents—were all kept as evidence. One of the things I would most want to see are some zinc-lined boxes buried in one place that contained:

"...Several Katipunan documents, three ribbons from the cassocks of the three native priests executed in 1872 for complicity in the revolt of that year, ribbons that were preserved as relics by the rebels. A picture of General Izquierdo, who ordered the execution of the three priests, was also found; and a Masonic apron upon which was painted the severed head of a Spaniard held by the hair by a Filipino hand."

Another friar, Celestino de las Huertas, OFM, sent a communication to his superiors in Madrid regarding the outbreak of the Revolution in 1896, where he mentioned the contents of Andres Bonifacio's "secret chest" found in the ceiling of the warehouse of Fressell and Co. where Bonifacio worked as a *bodeguero*. The contents of this chest were:

"[Documents detailing the] complete organization of the Filipino Republic, also official decrees, rebel appointments, regulations of the republic, civil and penal codes written in tagalong and Spanish. There were also found photographs of Padre Burgos, Padre Gomez, and Padre Zamora. Of Padre Burgos there were several and on the back of an old one is the picture of General Gandara.

"Among the regalia were found as relics pieces of the gowns used during the executions of 1872 and written on each piece into which the relics are divided is the name of the rebel to which they belonged, that of Padre Burgos being the most highly prized as it is given only to reward very meritorious services."

I have always been fond of relics because they are one way to remind us of our heroes. Some people even have to be reminded that heroes were real people who once walked the earth like you and me. Once I brought my students to the crypt of San Agustin Church and pointed out the niche where the remains of Juan Luna were deposited. Most of the students looked at it and walked away, but one girl stood in front of the niche for a long time. I presumed she was in awe or reverence of a great artist and patriot, so I asked her what she was thinking. She replied, "*Totoong tao pala iyang si Luna* (So Luna was a real man after all)."

The remark surprised me, and I wanted to tell her, "Who told you Luna was not real?" But I left her there to reflect on her observation.

This was a UP student, one of the best and brightest in the country. If she thought this way, it makes me shudder to even imagine what students think in other parts of the archipelago.

If you want to see a really bizarre relic, go to Fort Santiago and see the preserved backbone of Rizal in a display case.

Relics and history are aids to memory.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Right and wrong

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE REGIONAL EDITION OF TIME MAGAZINE, A BBC World radio series, as well as dozens of local newspapers and magazines all seem to be asking the same question on the 20th anniversary of Edsa I: "What went wrong?"

Trying to answer that question by looking only at the last 20 years may be futile. The post-Edsa era is, after all, only one phase in our life as a people. We need to go further back, through our colonial past, even into the pre-colonial period.

That would take an entire book, so I thought I'd focus today only on the post-war era, at our life as an independent nation. That post-war era can actually be divided into three phases of roughly 20 years each. The first phase began with the restoration of independence on June 12, 1946, lasting into 1966, the first year of the Marcos presidency. The second period was that of Marcos, through his term as an elected president into martial law and his ouster in February 1986. The third period was the post-Marcos era from 1986 to the present.

What's striking is that each phase began with optimism, even euphoria, only to be followed by shattered dreams, often ending with a sense of betrayal and failure and then followed again by a new cycle of hope. Hindsight just might give us the foresight to deal with the next 20-year phase.

Independence

When we regained independence on June 12, 1946, the country was still reeling from the destruction of the war. Only a year and a half earlier, Manila had been leveled by bombs in the final battle to drive out the Japanese invaders. Hundreds of thousands were homeless and hungry, nursing the injured and disabled, mourning for the dead.

But we were at least a nation victorious, the invaders expelled. Compared to many of our neighboring countries, we were fairly advanced, with higher literacy rates, an economic and political infrastructure. The Americans also poured in money, albeit tied to unfair trade treaties and the retention of US military bases, to help with post-war rehabilitation.

By the 1950s, we were riding high as one of the richest countries in the region. Wealthy Filipinos didn't think twice about flying off to Hong Kong for weekend shopping sprees.

I remember, too, hearing older uncles and aunts predicting that as the Philippines developed, it would become harder and harder to get domestic helpers. "By the 1970s, there won't be poor *muchachas* left to work for us," I remember one aunt's bold prediction.

Then, as now, we had rosy statistics that proclaimed economic growth. Then, as now, we seemed to have a strong peso, a fixed exchange rate of P2 to the dollar. But the development that took place was selective, mainly favoring the landed elite that exported sugar and copra to the United States. Grinding poverty remained, especially in rural areas, fueling a Huk rebellion. And corruption was rife, including profiteering from rehabilitation money.

We had several presidents during these early years of the Republic: Manuel Roxas, Elpidio Quirino, Ramon Magsaysay, Carlos Garcia and Diosdado Macapagal. Each began his term with high hopes, each proposed his own version of land reform, each his own brand of Filipino nationalism, including, at times, opposition to the US bases.

In the last years of that first cycle, we had Diosdado Macapagal as president. He tried to respond to rural unrest with a weak land reform program. In 1962, he also let loose the Philippine peso, allowing it to "float."

Camelot

But the Philippines was clearly ailing, in need of change. Ferdinand Marcos defeated Macapagal and took office in 1966, ushering in a new era. He was young and charismatic. He and his wife Imelda were compared to America's Kennedys. John F. Kennedy had been assassinated in 1963 but memories lingered of his presidency, of a kind of wonderland Camelot.

But Marcos' popularity sank quickly during his first term. Unrest continued to grow, spilling into the cities. The Huks were in decline but a new Communist Party and a New People's Army emerged during Marcos' presidency.

Marcos was the first president to win reelection, but this happened at great cost, depleting the national treasury. Political unrest continued to spread. Desperate to remain in power, he tried to get a new constitution that would allow him to stay on. When that failed, he declared martial law and ushered in new hopes, among a middle class convinced that authoritarianism was the way forward.

The economy grew. There were a few token moves to wean us away from our dependence on America, mainly by creating a new market for a novel new export: people. This sector grew through the years, keeping the country's economy floating, and providing a safety valve to diffuse social discontent even to this day.

But people grew weary of corruption, crony capitalism, human rights violations. The assassination of Ninoy Aquino in 1983 was a turning point, rousing even the apathetic middle class. The Republic's second phase ended with the fall of Marcos in 1986.

People Power

We were again a proud people, full of hopes. We passed a new Constitution that was largely progressive with its provisions against another dictatorship, and with a bias toward promoting social justice.

But we know what happened in the last 20 years. From the beginning, the odds were stacked against change. While the communist and Moro rebellions declined, we had to contend with an array of right-wing forces. We had nine attempted coups during the Aquino presidency. We later voted Gregorio Honasan, one of the coup leaders, into the Senate and in the last few years, conservative legislators have pulled their own coups, hijacking the Constitution to serve their purposes.

We had Fidel Ramos, then Joseph Estrada, then Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. (Do you sense how my voice trails off as I type their names?)

My aunt's prediction about disappearing *muchachas* wasn't quite right: we still have them in abundance for our homes, even as we now export teachers and midwives and nurses and doctors-turned-nurses to work as *muchachos* and *muchachas* to the world.

As this third phase of the Republic ends, we again see mixed moods. The President and big business are upbeat with their economic statistics. I've never seen so many high-rise condominiums and Jaguars and BMWs on our roads, and out in rural areas, each week seems to see a new luxury resort, health spa or golf course. We're awash with yen and dollars: last week a friend told me a taxi driver had given her a dollar bill instead of P50 as change.

In the last month alone, as we close this third phase of the Republic, we saw the poor and the jobless dying in a stampede for tickets to a noontime entertainment show offering prizes. Two weeks later, an entire village was wiped off the face of the earth by a landslide, its residents too poor to move away from an area long identified as a geological hazard.

The last 60 years should have given us enough lessons about what could go wrong in a nation. Must we ask that same question again in 2026? It's time we seriously thought of righting those wrongs, before trying to move on.

Restructure IRA based on LGU needs

THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE DEPARTment of Finance that Congress enact a law restructuring the internal revenue allotment of local government units is a sound and sensible proposal that could alleviate the plight of the majority of LGUs. Indeed, this is long overdue.

Why the economically obese LGUs should be allocated millions of IRA funds when they have to construct, improve or repair fewer infrastructures is a puzzle.

Under the present scheme, the biggest beneficiaries are the barangays in highly urbanized cities and in first- and second-class municipalities, cities and provinces.

Yearly, the DOF sponsors a number of seminars on techniques and methods of tax collection, including legal sanctions and foreclosures, but these have not improved the finances of impoverished LGUs whose earning capabilities can no longer be stretched. They still suffer severe budget shortfalls.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Not too long ago, the province of Eastern Samar instituted a tax measure to collect taxes: the possible filing of lawsuits by the provincial attorney against realty tax delinquents, with certification from the municipal treasurers and the approval of municipal mayors. The latter balked at the idea, sensing the political repercussion of such a move.

I hope that, after a research and soul-searching study, Congress will find the wisdom to discern the real economic ills plaguing the majority of LGUs.

It would help if the IRA is restructured based on the financial needs of LGUs, not on population and land area.

—FRANK C. CABANATAN, municipal assessor, Mercedes, Eastern Samar

Islam, terrorism are not the issue

I DO NOT CONDONE THE VIOLENT PROtests that some Muslims have mounted against the cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. However, I cannot tolerate and accept in my heart the cartoons. Any drawing, cartoon or symbol depicting the Prophet is forbidden by Islamic law since this is tantamount to promoting idolatry.

Israel and Palestine have been at war since God knows when, but they never crossed the line of insulting each other's religious belief. Such is the unwritten law that even the freedom of expression must not violate.

You do not disgrace Buddha, Jesus Christ (also considered by Islam as one of its prophets), Moses or the Pope in the same way that you do not disgrace the Prophet of Islam.

The issue here is not about terrorism or Islamic fundamentalism, but about respect and human co-existence. Although there is disparity in the manner of expressing their anger and outrage, the Muslims around the world have been unified by the cartoon issue.

Instead of contributing to peace, the controversial newspaper has put to waste whatever achievements had been made to promote peace in the world.

To all Muslims in the world, let us pray that Allah may give us the patience and tolerance which the Prophet Mohammed would have displayed in this most difficult time in our lives.

—NORMINA MUSOR-DATUDACULA, norminadatudacula@yahoo.com

Triumph and tragedy

(Edsa's 20th, a new coup and the Leyte landslide have been on our readers' minds this week. Faced with the counterpoint between past triumph and present tragedy and aggravation, more thoughts of what individual citizens can do to alleviate the burdens seem to be emerging with greater frequency.)

WHILE OTHER COUNTRIES ARE EAGER TO ASSIST OUR OWN Filipino brothers and sisters in the St. Bernard mudslide in Southern Leyte, an insignificant military group of dumb young officers is directing all its energy toward destabilizing the government. They will never gain the people's support with brash irresponsible statements. They should start redirecting all that negative, selfish energy by helping out in Leyte. Then maybe they would earn a little more respect for themselves and support from the people.—**Jun Antiporda, Cainta, Rizal**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

The gall of these lawmakers claiming to donate the people's money, as if it were their own. We don't need such grandstanding from these so-called servants of the people. What we need is for them to find ways to stop the scams and the corrupt deals that drain the national coffers and [line] the pockets of the powers-that-be. These billions could have gone a long way in funding a massive reforestation drive that would have prevented that mudslide disaster.—**Jorge Nator, P.O. Box 5372, Al-Khafji, Saudi Arabia**

* * *

If only our politicians and government officials put half as much effort in solving real social and economic problems as they do in [controversial] issues, the Philippines would be the great country that it should be.

We, the people, should start being responsible for our own development in all aspects, owning our success and failures and stop putting our destiny in the hands of politicians. By doing so, we can empower ourselves to become the best that we can be, without being subjected to their abuse, waiting for false promises and doles they cannot really deliver. Then we can take an active part in censuring erring officials without feeling the burden of a false sense of gratitude.—**Carmencita Pe (via e-mail)**

* * *

The "Gloriagate" crisis (has) served as an eye-opener for us Filipinos. It proves that we are not united as a nation. We tend to find fault in each other—and when we have found a fault, we magnify it without testing its validity. We waste our time in focusing on this single fault instead of concentrating on what's good for our country.

There's really a need to shift our focus to finding out what good each one of us has done for the country. There is also a need for our leaders to do a significantly good job.—**Hershe Legaspina, Cebu City**

* * *

GMA is redefining the value of a major historical event in our country. This is the height of arrogance and it is directed against us millions of Filipinos who, on that fateful February in 1986, were willing to die in the name of democracy after long years of Marcos' oppression.

To end this crisis, we continue to believe that Gloria must resign her post now. We must also convince others so that we will grow in number to continue opposing and challenging her leadership of deception and half-truths.—**Ednar Carlos Dayanghirang, ednarcarlos@yahoo.com**

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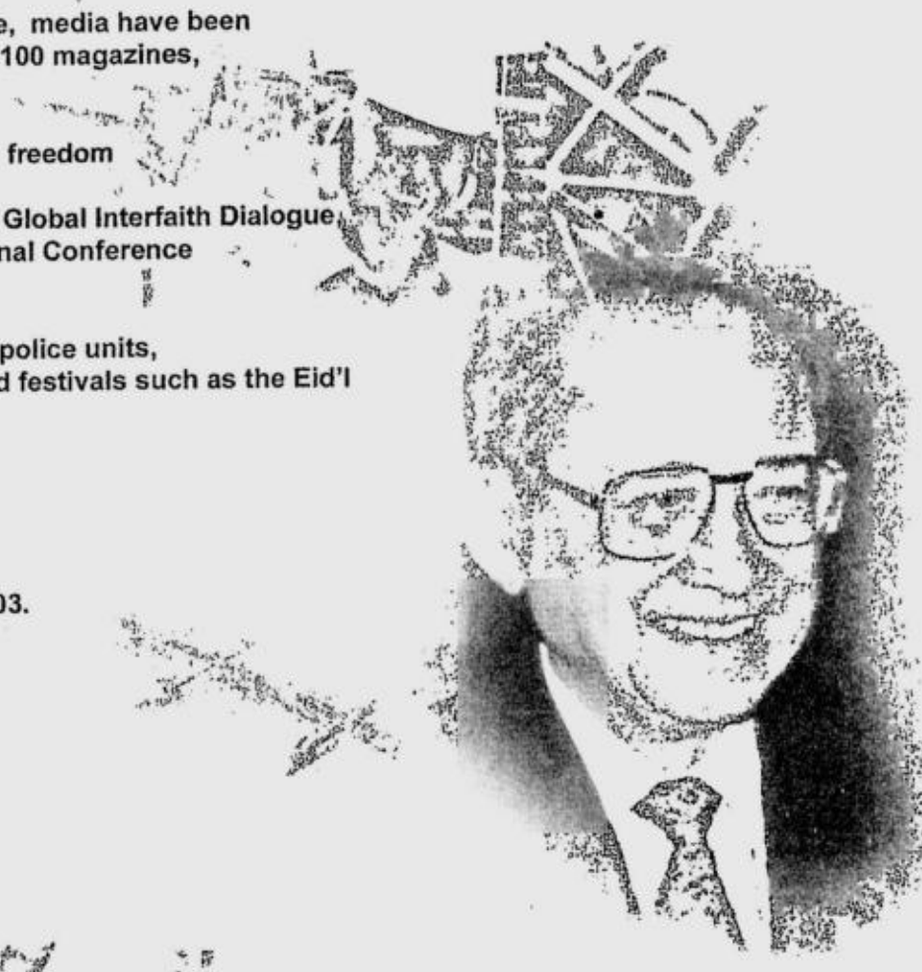
- most vibrant press this side of the world

  From the mosquito and alternative press during the dark years of martial rule, media have been mainstreamed. In 2005, there are more than 100 newspapers and more than 100 magazines, 644 commercial radio stations, and 15 free TV channels.

- host of several international events espousing greater political and religious freedom

  These include the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia-Pacific and the Global Interfaith Dialogue, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly and the 3rd International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

  Commitment to religious freedom is evident in the establishment of Salaam police units, establishment/re-entry of Islamic banking, promotion of Muslim holidays and festivals such as the Eid'l Fitre, and the strengthening of Madrasah education.



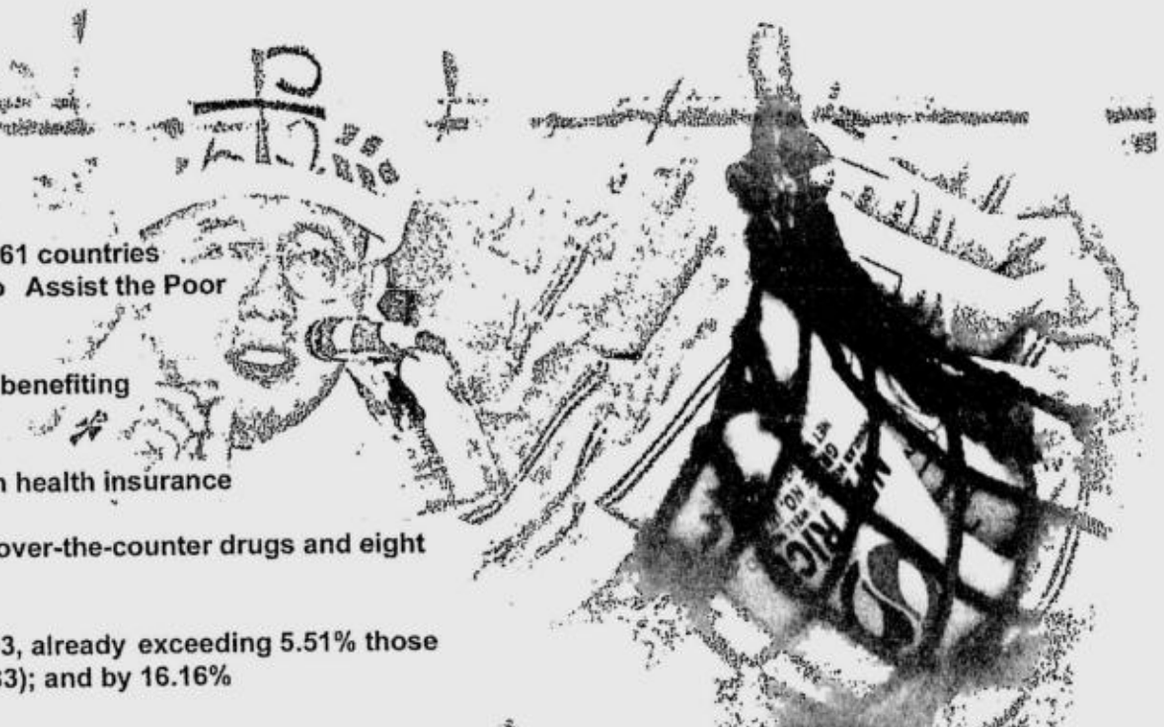
The spirit of EDSA means better lives.

- Poverty incidence fell 2.7 percentage points to 24.5% between 2000 and 2003. Nearly 2 million people are lifted out of poverty.

- highest average GDP growth rate
  1986 - 1992 : 3.8%
  1992 - 1998 : 3.7%
  1998 - 2001 : 2.8%
  2000 - 2005 : **4.0%**

- lowest average inflation rate
  1986 - 1992 : 10.4%
  1992 - 1998 : 7.6%
  1998 - 2001 : 6.0%
  2000 - 2005 : **5.2%**

- most number of jobs created
  1986 - 1992 : 800,000/year
  1992 - 1998 : 636,000/year
  1998 - 2001 : 162,000/year
  2001 - 2004 : **1.214 million/year**



- the best implementor of small livelihood lending to the poor among 161 countries (United Nations and the World Bank-supported Consultative Group to Assist the Poor citation during the International Day of Microfinance)

- more than 90% electrification rate, the highest in any administration, benefiting more than 5,000 barangays

- 2.4 million indigent families, or 12 million poor Filipinos, are now with health insurance

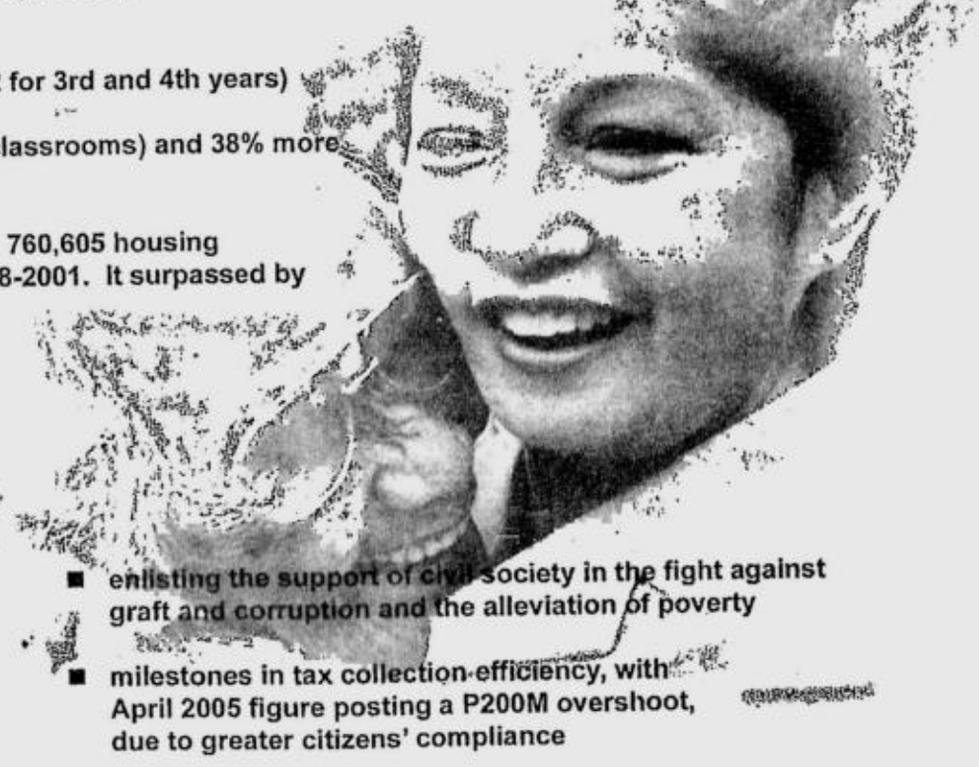
- more than 3,600 Botika ng Barangays that sell half the price generic over-the-counter drugs and eight selected prescription drugs used by the poor such as amoxicillin

- 961,239 average number of hectares of irrigated lands from 2001-2003, already exceeding 5.51% those irrigated in 1998-2001 (911,000); by 9.92% from 1992-1998 (874,473.83); and by 16.16% from 1986-1998 (827,495.83)

- 1:1 textbook-student ratio for all of grade school and half of high school (1:2 for 3rd and 4th years)

- 10,315 classrooms built in 2001-2002, 840% more than in 1992-1993 (1,097 classrooms) and 38% more than in 1998-1999 (7,451 classrooms)

- The first three-year term of the Arroyo Administration was able to exceed by 760,605 housing beneficiaries the combined number of beneficiaries from 1986-1992 and 1998-2001. It surpassed by 21.9% the number of housing beneficiaries from 1992-1998.



The spirit of EDSA means better governance and citizenship.

- reduction of processing time when applying for an NBI Clearance (from 3 days to 5 minutes), passport (from 5 days to 3 days), driver's license (from 180 days to 30 minutes), house-related permits (from 90 days to 30-45 days), and veteran's pension (from 3 days to 2 days)

- implementation of the Government Procurement Act (Republic Act 9184) which allows on-line bidding and resulting in at least 30% savings or P52 million in 2005

- introduction of a lifestyle check program in 2003 which led to an unprecedented record of high-ranking government official suspended, charged in court, or dismissed from the service

- increase in the conviction of corrupt officials from 6% in 2002 to 40% in 2005

- enlisting the support of civil society in the fight against graft and corruption and the alleviation of poverty

- milestones in tax collection efficiency, with April 2005 figure posting a P200M overshoot, due to greater citizens' compliance

- cultivation of the values of patriotism and excellence by being cognizant of ourselves as Filipinos with dignity and pride as demonstrated by the 1st place finish of the Philippines in the recent South East Asian Games

- inspiring spirit of *bayanihan* and voluntarism in difficult times such as in natural calamities in Southern Leyte, Quezon, and Central Luzon

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Diwalwal disaster looms, says gov't

DAVAO CITY—THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES Bureau (MGB) in Southern Mindanao has warned anew of landslides in the gold-rush area of Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley.

In recent years, dozens of people died when mud buried residential areas and mine tunnels in the area.

One of the deadliest landslides to occur in the mining community was in April 1999 when mud covered residential and commercial areas in Mt. Diwata following heavy rains.

The MGB said the "unrestrained, unsystematic" logging and mining activities in the area, compounded by poor soil condition, make Mt. Diwata, also known as Diwalwal, landslide-prone.

Following a recent geo-hazard survey it conducted on Mt. Diwata, the MGB urged local government officials in the area to immediately implement a relocation plan and disaster preparedness program.

The MGB described Mt. Diwata as a "highly susceptible zone," or an area that has slopes with "active mass movements."

The MGB team identified the Mabatas area, a flatland located southwest of Mt. Diwata, as a potential relocation site.

Monkayo Mayor Manuel Brillantes Jr. has reportedly ordered the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC) to identify the high-risk areas in Mt. Diwata and to evacuate residents by force, if necessary.

While landslides threaten many parts of Mindanao, an equally dangerous occurrence continue to hound many provinces on the island.

In Central Mindanao, disaster officials said the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and South Cotabato are flood-prone areas because these serve as catch basins for major tributaries.

These include the Rio Grande de Mindanao, which stretches from Caraga.

Benjie Varga, of the Office of Civil Defense in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), said Rio Grande also traverses Maguindanao. *Judy Quiros, Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mine firm says ₱320M a year awaits town; suit filed

LEGAZPI CITY—A MINING FIRM THAT IS BEing besieged following mine spills last year vowed to pump in at least P320 million a year to the town that hosts it in the form of wages and revenue from the purchase of goods and services.

Carlos Dominguez, chair and president of the Lafayette Phil. Inc. (LPI), said direct job and business opportunities would have a multiplier effect and translate to at least P320 million a year for residents of Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

But this did not stop some 2,000 fishermen, who are blaming LPI for loss of income in a fish scare, from filing a class suit against the mining firm.

Lawyer Gil Gojol, who filed the case for the fishermen, said the fishermen want to put a stop to LPI's mining operation and are demanding compensation.

The complainants are fishermen from the towns of Prieto-Diaz and Gubat and Bacon District in Sorsogon City, Gojol said.

Dominguez said Rapu-Rapu, and the national government, would be the biggest beneficiaries of LPI when the firm pays taxes.

"These are just the start," he said. "We have more in store for our host communities once we resume operations."

He said the company would pour its resources into improving the town's and the surrounding villages' socio-economic condition.

The villages of Pagcolbon and Malobago, he said, would receive P10 million of projects such as street lighting, free electricity and medical support for 1,600 residents.

The two villages are nearest to the LPI project site.

"Schoolchildren will be given the supplies they need, both to make them better pupils and to lessen the financial burden on their parents," Dominguez added.

"We want to show them that we are doing responsible mining and that our activities are benefiting the local communities in the short and long term," he said.

Lawyer Gojol said the suit filed by the fishermen seeks to force LPI to pay for the loss of income that was a result of a fish scare that followed two mine spills in the LPI's Rapu-Rapu project.

Lawyer Julito Sarmiento, LPI corporate secretary and director, said the suit is "an opportunity to find the whole truth about the fish scare and hold all the parties guilty fully liable based not on rumors or emotions but on pure evidence and facts."

He reiterated that LPI does not use mercury in its operations as its detractors claim.

Dominguez said the other benefits that LPI would bring to Rapu-Rapu and its neighboring towns would be in the form of increased purchase of goods that would run into millions of pesos and perk up business.

He said LPI is now upgrading its facilities, expanding its dams and ponds and its water treatment facilities are being further improved.

He said LPI would not resume operations until it has fully met all requirements to ensure that the Rapu-Rapu project is safe. *Gil Francis Arevalo and Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Mayor's backers pursue protests

TANAUAN CITY—About 400 armed and truncheon-wielding policemen tried but failed to prevent 5,000 supporters of embattled Mayor Alfredo Corona from assembling and holding their protest rally here on Thursday as tension erupted anew at the troubled city hall.

The crowd was the biggest since the stalemate at the city leadership started on Feb. 7.

As the stand-off at the city hall entered its 16th day, antiriot policemen on board two buses and 12 other vehicles arrived at the area as early as 3 a.m. and blocked all entry points leading to the city hall.

Upon orders of Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, Batangas police director, the 160-man crowd dispersal management team of the provincial police office, blocked the people and set up at least five checkpoints.

However, eager and defiant supporters of Corona pushed and shoved the policemen as they broke off from the police barricade. They were able to gain entry at 8 a.m.

Some of the protesters, including elderly women, jumped over a concrete fence.

At least four protesters were hurt and suffered bruises. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Lapid son hurt in fight

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The youngest son of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid was hurt in a brawl in Angeles City on Sunday and lost his Rolex watch to one of his foes, a report here said. Maynard Lapid, 21, was hurled by a certain Limuel Pangilinan, 20, inside the Sax Bar in Barangay Balibago as a shouting match raged at 2 a.m. Pangilinan's companion, identified as Roby Tuazon, reportedly took advantage of the confusion, and snatched the young Lapid's watch worth P250,000 before fleeing.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

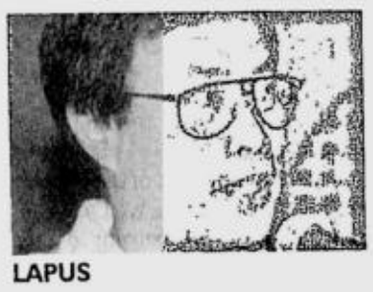
1 dead, 50 hurt in mishap

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A woman died while more than 50 persons were injured when a bus fell into a ravine at the end of the zigzag portion of the provincial road in Barangay Luzviminda here last Saturday. Police identified the lone casualty as Leonarda Corpuz, 68, of Rizal, Palawan. She was declared dead on arrival at the Ospital ng Palawan. A Charing bus bound for Rizal town met the accident an hour after it left this city at 8 a.m. on Saturday.
Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Probe of beating ordered

MAGALANG, Pampanga—A top police official in Central Luzon on Tuesday ordered an investigation of the alleged beating of a patient by several personnel of the region's police-assisted drug rehabilitation center. Chief Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, regional police director, ordered Senior Supt. Teofilo Melliza, head of the anti-illegal drugs task force, to investigate the beating at the Central Luzon Drug Rehabilitation Center, a tightly guarded 5.8-hectare compound in Barangay Santo Niño here.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Solon, SSS men welcome bank chair


LAPUS

A SENIOR House leader on Wednesday extolled the election of Social Security System president Corazon de la Paz as chair of the board of directors of the country's third largest bank, Equitable-PCI Bank. Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House ways and means committee, said in a press statement it was a welcome development for the interest of millions of SSS members who are the real stakeholders in the bank. "She represents the interest of SSS investments in that bank ...," said Lapus. A group representing the 26 million SSS members nationwide also welcomed the election results. "De la Paz's election to the Equitable-PCI bodes well for us ...," said Ross Sta. Cruz, United Social Security System Members Inc. president. The group's statement said the 500 branches of Equitable could provide the services that SSS members need, especially in the provinces.

Fewer funds for students

DUMAGUETE CITY—Slots for only 1,000 students are available in the annual Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) in Negros Oriental after this year's budget for the program was cut in half. Kendrick Villaluz, of the Department of Labor and Employment in Dumaguete, said the number would only be about half of last year's almost 2,000 SPES beneficiaries. He said only P6 million was allocated for the program this year.
Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

Dads dead in collision

COTABATO CITY—Two village officials of Bukidnon were killed when the motorcycle they were riding smashed into a truck in Carmen, North Cotabato on Feb. 19. Ramil Nawal and Vieno Ambato, both of Damulog town, died on the spot.
Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

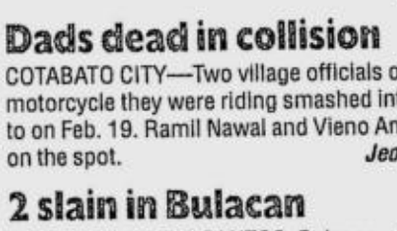
2 slain in Bulacan

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Two men were killed in separate attacks in San Ildefonso town on Saturday and Sunday. Police said Santiago Francisco, 45, was walking near the town hall at 7:30 a.m. Monday when he was shot and killed by two men in a motorcycle. In another attack, Danilo Fajardo, 45, a village watchman of Sapang Putik, and a companion, Reynante Torres, were snatched by at least 10 armed men on Sunday night. Police said the suspects tied Fajardo and Torres to a motorcycle, dragged them and shot them. Fajardo died instantly while Torres, who was wounded, escaped.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Motorcycle deaths rise

LUCENA CITY—Three more motorbike riders died in an accident in Pagbilao town on Feb. 17. Jeffrey Lucilla, Ronelo Pinana and Armando Delliosa, all residents of Barangay Pinagbahaan, Pagbilao were in a motorcycle and was trying to overtake another vehicle when they collided with a bus. The motorcycle riders were declared dead on arrival at a hospital in Pagbilao. Last week, a businessman also died when a van hit the motorcycle he was riding in Lucena. Last month, three motorcycle riders also died and eight others severely injured in different road accidents in the city. Last year, more than 30 persons riding motorcycles died in Quezon province.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bishop new RDC chair


VILLENA

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Tuesday appointed Catholic Bishop Ramon Villena as the chair of the Regional Development Council, the highest policymaking body in Cagayan Valley. Mila Rimando, RDC vice chair, said Villena's appointment was signed in January, but took effect only on Tuesday. Villena, whose diocese covers Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, said he has accepted his appointment as council chair. "I will share my very best for the development of [the region]," the bishop said in a text message to the INQUIRER. The RDC is the primary institution that coordinates and sets the direction of all economic and social development efforts in the region.
Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cory leads Ayala march

From page A1

Aquino monument.

So people won't forget

"This is so that people will not forget that Ninoy started this," Aquino said, referring to her late husband, Benigno Jr., whose 1983 assassination became the catalyst for the movement that brought down the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"We will have a short program, we will have prayers and sing some songs. I will also make a short statement," Aquino said.

Approached by reporters at a forum on microfinance at the Asian Institute of Management which she helped organize, Aquino declined to answer questions about political issues, saying she would answer these in today's march.

But in her prepared statement on microfinance, she spoke about how the gains from People Power were undermined by other participants in the uprising.

"Just as our efforts were beginning to bear fruit, these were stymied by erstwhile tactical allies with a latent disdain for democracy, and nothing more than an opportunistic view of People Power," she said.

Unfinished revolution

"As a result, our revolution remained unfinished and much of our democratic institutions remain weak to this day," Aquino said.

Del Rosario noted that businessmen not only participated in the 1986 uprising but also in the events that led to it, notably the creation of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections.

The MBC convened a powerhouse group of business leaders, religious leaders and anti-Arroyo forces last Wednesday to assess the lingering crisis that has bedeviled the country since last year.

But while MBC members have openly criticized the President, only a handful have joined anti-Arroyo rallies.

"We feel this is a good time to start taking an active role in solving the problems of our country," said Del Rosario.

Among the businessmen expected to join the rally are MBC chair Ricardo Romulo, Oscar Hilado, Cesar Buenaventura, Philamlife president Jose Cuisia and Roberto de Ocampo, a former finance secretary.

Ninoy's major role

"We in the business community will be there mainly to commemorate Edsa I and to show that this event is worth remembering and celebrating properly," said Del Rosario.

Ms Arroyo has kept this year's commemoration low-key. She has attended only one event in the four-day celebrations.

Del Rosario said he expected Aquino to remind the people of the exploits of her husband that he said were not as appreciated now as they were two decades ago.

"I think she wants to remind us that Ninoy had a major role to play in Edsa People Power and that Filipinos should never forget his martyrdom. She felt that we might have forgotten about Ninoy and the need to live up to his ideals, the same ideals we fought for in Edsa," he said in a phone interview.

Emboldened by what they claimed to have been a successful anti-Arroyo rally at Edsa on Wednesday, militant groups said they would bring a bigger contingent to the People Power Monument there today.

Edsa, Manila rallies

The Bagong Alyansang Bayan expects up to 50,000 people at the Edsa rally whose twin goals are the ouster of Ms Arroyo and the commemoration of the first People Power revolution 20 years ago.

"We don't think Gloria can be ousted by a coup. Only a People Power [uprising] will do," said Carl Ala, information officer of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The Bayan protesters will march to Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila in the afternoon, Ala said.

In a build-up to the Liwasang Bonifacio rally, some 20 members of peasant and fisherfolk organizations staged a fluvial protest on the Pasig River yesterday.

"This is just a sample of what's in store tomorrow. It is the beginning of a new People Power, the beginning of the end of Gloria Arroyo," said Gerry Albert Corpuz, information officer of the Pamalakaya fisherfolk group.

Noting the anti-administration rallies lined up to commemorate the first Edsa uprising, Malacañang yesterday accused the President's opponents of being "oblivious" to the plight of the victims of the Southern Leyte tragedy.

Spend time, money in S. Leyte

"Nobody, least of all the government, questions their right to hold such rallies which are part of the political rights of our citizens which are guaranteed under our Constitution," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

But he questioned their motive to "promote their agenda by capitalizing on the historic significance of the People Power revolution."

"The spirit of Edsa I was meant to foster, not divisiveness, but reconciliation and unity," Ermita said.

"Confronted as we are with this heart-wrenching tragedy that befell thousands of our fellow Filipinos in Southern Leyte, I believe it would be extremely advisable for all of us to desist from carrying out any partisan political activity at this time. This could be interpreted by our people and our foreign friends as indicative of unconscionable insensitivity to the plight of our fellow men," he said.

Instead of spending millions of pesos in mobilizing people to rally, Ermita said the money could be better spent in boosting search and rescue efforts in Guinsaugon where 1,400 residents were buried in 30 meters of mud.

Palace defense

The police have activated a defense system ringing Malacañang in anticipation of anti-government demonstrations in the next few days.

Metro Manila has been placed on full alert and the rest of the country, on heightened alert, which means that at least 50 percent of the 118,000-strong Philippine National Police would be on duty.

Acting on reports that demonstrations would be "infiltrated," the PNP has set up checkpoints on the highways leading to Metro Manila.

But police officials downplayed rumors of "D-Day," supposedly the day that military rebels would make their move against the Arroyo government.

"There have been several D-Days if you remember. It doesn't appear to be that way," said PNP chief Arturo Lomibao.

Director Vidal Querol, chief of the Metro Manila Police, warned demonstrators against occupying all lanes of Edsa.

CPR if ...

If the flow of traffic is impeded, the police might be forced to carry out the controversial calibrated preemptive response policy, which last year led to intense clashes between antiriot cops and protesters, he warned.

The Wednesday rally of the Laban ng Masa, which attracted around 15,000 people according to an INQUIRER estimate, caused a traffic jam extending several kilometers on Edsa's northbound lanes.

"But I don't think they will listen. They prefer that the public undergo some kind of pain, because the pain would stick in the minds of the motorists and [the latter] would remember them," Querol said.

Lomibao said the police would be lenient with protesters because the celebrations have to do with Edsa "when the country freed itself from a dictatorship".

Limits

But there are limitations, like not impeding traffic, he said.

"One group cannot be enjoying a privilege yet deprive another group of the same privilege, such as the right to use the country's roads," he said.

PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said antiriot cops have been instructed to maintain maximum tolerance, to the point of ignoring taunts and heckling.

"They must not be (easily) provoked. They must be patient," Pagdilao said.

Even a spit is not enough reason to retaliate, he said. *With reports from Luige A. del Puerto and Tarra V. Quismundo*

Mountain tribe sensed something was wrong

GUINSAUGON, ST. BERNARD, Southern Leyte—Two months before the Feb. 17 landslide, the Mamanua tribe knew that something bad was going to happen.

While out gathering rattan, the men noticed cracks on the ground on a ridge adjoining the mountain that crashed onto Barangay Guinsaugon, leaving more than 1,000 people entombed.

"The cracks were a sign that there will be a landslide. What else can you expect?" Ronnie Luzada, 24, told Reuters.

Sammy Lantaaw, the leader of the curly-haired mountain dwellers, said they felt an earthquake the night before the landslide: "I felt the earth shake. The plates and water containers fell from the table."

Scared, those tribespeople who could afford the bus fare to the nearest town fled. But around two-thirds of the 112-strong village were left behind.

"We are so worried about them," Nita Exclamado, 33, a mother of six, said as she sat on a piece of cardboard at the bus terminal in St. Bernard. *Reuters*

Heavy rains stop search; rescuers pulled out

From page A1

ing to 118 the total number of bodies recovered. A total of 980 remained missing.

"The order from General Ramos was to take everybody out of the site," Capt. Burrell Parmer told the PDI Central Luzon Desk by phone.

The evacuation of all 142 Taiwanese, Malaysian, Spanish, Filipino and American volunteers was completed at 12:15 p.m., Parmer said.

Rescuers said yesterday's downpour was the worst since Sunday, or two days after the massive mudslide hit Guinsaugon.

Ramos said operations would continue as the weather improved.

In a separate interview, Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias said the resumption of operations would depend on the assessment of the experts—a statement with which Ramos expressed agreement.

Lerias said they had also decided to take aerial photos of the site so that they could come up with "more intelligent decisions."

RAIN-SOAKED US Marine takes a break from digging into the muddy depths. REM ZAMORA

'Trapped' team

Among the rescuers digging at the purported site of the school building were six Taiwanese teams composed of seven members each.

Team coordinator Benjamin Hung told reporters that one of the teams was about to heed the pullout order when it was "trapped" in the mud.

Hung said the team members were airlifted by a US Marine chopper along with the corpse of a woman that they found near a creek.

He said the team could just have left the corpse, which was being washed away by the rising waters.

"But they brought it along with them out of respect for the victim," he said.

Joseph Chang, liaison officer for the Taiwanese contingent, later downplayed the incident, saying the team was merely "muddied."

Chang said the Taiwanese teams rested the whole afternoon but would continue working today if the weather improved.

On Wednesday afternoon, a Malaysian rescuer was airlifted to the Integrated Provincial Hospital in Maasin City because of a diabetic attack.

Pacquiao

Ramli Khairul Nizam, 25, was airlifted at past 3 p.m. yesterday to Cebu City and was taken to the Chong Hua Hospital.

As most of the rescuers took a break from their labors, boxing champion Manny Pacquiao arrived at the command center for a 15-minute visit before proceeding to the evacuation centers.

"I was still in the [United] States when [I heard] the news. I immediately flew back on Wednesday to bring donations from my friends in the US as well as my personal donations," he said, adding:

"I wanted to cry when I saw footage [of the landslide]. That's why I immediately arranged to come here."

Pacquiao called on Filipinos to unite and pray for all the victims of the landslide and help them rebuild their lives.

He and St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim refused to give details of the donations.

Before he left, Pacquiao posed for pictures with Filipino and US troops.

More international aid

Lerias said that they were still hoping to find survivors, and that they would only cease operations when the rescuers and other experts say there is no more chance of finding anyone alive.

She said that until yesterday, more teams from other countries were arriving, including a medical team from Indonesia and a search-and-rescue team from Turkey.

India sent 28 tons of relief goods worth $260,000.

Australian-trained Filipino forensic experts were sent to Southern Leyte yesterday to help identify the bodies.

To help in their work, the Australian government gave the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory a trailer and forensic equipment worth P2 million.

Eight Filipino policemen, who had just completed disaster victim identification training with the Australian Federal Police, will try to identify unclaimed bodies using fingerprints, DNA and dental samples.

Ernesto Belen, head of the PNP Crime Laboratory, said they would join three Filipino policemen who had trained with Malaysian forensic experts.

"Another 18 will be sent to the site [today] when their training with the military is completed," Belen said.

Crucial operation

He also said Australia's donation would help the crime lab, which had previously been "improvising" on some forensic equipment.

Yesterday's operation was considered crucial because US Marines were supposed to airlift a drill capable of digging 180 feet to the site where the Guinsaugon Elementary School is believed buried.

Lt. Col. Alex Vohr, commanding officer of the US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group, said Wednesday night the drill would tell if rescuers were in the right spot.

"Hope is fading, but I believe in miracles," Ozgur Bozoglu, coordinator of the nine-man rescue team from Turkey, told reporters yesterday.

The team arrived with a sound locator called a "vibrophone." Bozoglu said it was capable of picking up "seismic activity and rhythmic sounds, like scratching" from under 100 meters deep "under normal conditions."

In the landslide, he said, the instrument was expected to work only up to depths of 20 to 25 meters.

A veteran of 21 rescue operations, including the El Salvador landslide in 2001 that killed thousands of people, Bozoglu said the search for survivors was difficult in a landslide.

"They cover all air passages," he said. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP*

Syndicates preying on orphans

From page A1

dren who have been completely orphaned. Because they're depressed, they're easily fooled by people pretending to be relatives," Bontuyan told the INQUIRER.

According to Bontuyan, recruitment was rampant at the St. Bernard Central Elementary School and Cristo Rey Regional High School, which are both being used as evacuation centers for the landslide victims.

He said that as of Wednesday night, St. Bernard had around 1,300 evacuees, and Cristo Rey more than 200.

If Bontuyan's warning is true, the child-trafficking syndicate will find orphans for the picking in the town's six evacuation centers which, according to Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias, held a total of 2,975 evacuees as of Wednesday night.

Modus operandi

Citing reports from volunteers stationed at the centers, Bontuyan said the syndicate members got to work as soon as the landslide survivors were evacuated on Feb. 17.

He said it was not difficult to identify the traffickers because his group had long been monitoring their activities in Southern Leyte.

Bontuyan said he and his colleagues could spot one without having to wait for a minor to be taken away and turned into a prostitute elsewhere.

"We know their modus operandi, and they're obviously taking advantage of the situation," he said.

Informed by Bontuyan Wednesday night of the supposed recruitment activity, Governor Lerias condemned those attempting to cash in on the victims' miserable condition.

"This is one time when we should all work together to arrest this problem," she said. "We should raise the level of awareness that these things are happening."

Port town

Southern Leyte has long been a strategic area of recruitment because the port of Liloan town provides an easy entry/exit point for Surigao, Sorsogon, Samar and Manila, to where the children are usually shipped, Bontuyan said.

Some children are sold to nightclubs in Cebu and Manila to work as prostitutes, while others are offered to foreigners, he said.

But Bontuyan pointed out that the authorities could not just arrest a stranger trying to talk a minor in an evacuation center into going with him.

To keep the children out of harm's way, he said, security guards had been instructed to bar suspected traffickers from evacuation centers, in coordination with his group's volunteers.

Janitor fish oil Marikina student's ticket to US tilt

From page A1

school science program to come up with solutions to deal with the janitor fish that has become a big problem for the city government of Marikina.

Also called sucker mouth fish, the janitor has been multiplying very fast in the Marikina River, feeding on algae and depriving other fish of nutrients.

Though scientists consider the janitor fish (*Pterygoplichthys pardalis*) safe for human consumption, most people consider it inedible because of the unsanitary environment in which it thrives.

Little did Raymond know that the pesky janitor fish would be his ticket to an international science competition in the United States in May as representative of the Philippines.

A senior high school student at Marikina City High School, Raymond was one of six winners of the Intel Philippines Science and Engineering Fair held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, last week.

He will compete against 1,400 students from 40 countries in the International Science and Engineering Fair in Indiana, according to the Marikina government's public information office.

For bio-fuel

Raymond's feat involved an experiment in which he set out to prove that oil extracted from the janitor fish could be used as a bio-fuel to run motor vehicles.

Raymond's mother, Janet, 50, who is also his chemistry teacher and who served as his coach, said janitor fish oil was "almost similar" in quality to coco-diesel, the fuel oil extracted from coconut that the government has been promoting as an alternative to petroleum.

The city government launched several programs beginning in 2004 to control the janitor fish population, even promising cash rewards to fishermen who catch janitor fish in large numbers.

Janet Amurao was a member of the committee organized to solve the problem. She brought the challenge to the Marikina City High School and with her then junior high school students began experimenting with the fish.

Accidental discovery

Janet describes her son as "an average student" who just "accidentally" stumbled on his discovery.

Raymond was watching his classmates who were working on an experiment to turn janitor fish meat into chicken feed. The fish meat had to be boiled as it was very hard.

Raymond noticed that there was a considerable amount of oil floating in the boiling water.

He started reading up on coco-diesel, and thought of converting the fish oil into a bio-fuel.

Raymond's initial experiment with 12 kilos of janitor fish produced 500 ml of processed fuel.

Like diesel

Janet said they calculated the fuel value of janitor fish oil and the results were comparable to that of diesel.

The next step would be to test the performance of the fuel on motor vehicles, she said.

"We were able to prove that the janitor fish is no longer a pest, but something which has many uses," Janet said.

Aside from bio-fuel, she said the skin of the janitor fish could be used with leather in the manufacture of shoes and bags.

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Ermita street caves in

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TWO PARKED VEHICLES DISAPPEARED into a deep hole in the ground while a tower crane collapsed after a portion of Adriatico Street in Ermita, Manila, caved in yesterday, causing panic among residents and occupants of nearby buildings.

Senior Insp. Alberto Peco of the Manila Police District said a white L-300 van and blue Kia Pregio van were "swallowed by the ground" at around 4 p.m. No one was hurt in the incident which left a hole over five foot deep and more than six meters long.

Peco said the incident may have been caused by the ongoing construction of Adriatico Residences, reportedly owned by the Robinsons' Land Corp.

Mario Sagum, detachment commander of Robinson's Place Manila, the mall beside the construction site, said the constant drilling may have produced vibrations which caused the ground underneath the vehicles to cave in.

A witness said he saw the two vehicles sink into the ground 10 minutes after he felt the ground shake violently "like an earthquake."

A PORTION of Adriatico Street in Ermita, Manila, caved in yesterday, swallowing two vans and causing a 15-story high tower crane to collapse. RYAN LIM

The police also ordered the occupants of buildings across the construction site to leave the area in case the tower crane, which was as tall as a 15-story building, fell on the structures.

The crane collapsed on the road at 6:25 p.m., leaving a hole about a foot deep.

"We are angry because the people responsible for turning off the electricity in cases like these failed to do so, exposing us to grave danger," a resident of a nearby building said, pointing at high voltage wires near the area.

Another resident of an apartment unit said she had been complaining about the noise and damage brought about by the construction.

"I noticed hairline cracks in my bathroom tiles which eventually became actual cracks," the resident said.

She added that she failed to get positive feedback from City Hall engineers when she complained about her problem.

"Even if the engineers knew that the ground was not conducive for that kind of pounding because it was apparently too soft, they did not do anything about it," the resident said.

City Engineer Armand Andres said they were still assessing the incident as of press time.

An official of DM Consunji, the company in charge of the project, said they were still trying to determine the cause of the cave-in, and were not yet ready to come out with a statement about the incident.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER for HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
Acacia Lane Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 535-4542 / Fax No. 535-4595
E-mail: chd_mm@yahoo.com

Bentrong Sigla

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and To Bid Procurement of Various Goods

The Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM), through the GOP funds – CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of the following goods being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The CHD-MM now invites sealed Bids, from eligible Bidders for the procurement of various goods. Delivery of the GOODS is required by second quarter of CY 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

IAEB No.	GOODS	ABC	Bid Document Price
2006-001	Security Services (a) CHD-MM (b) SLRWH	 2,755,200 00 1,082,400 00	P 8,000 00
2006-002	Internet Service Provider	300,000 00	2,000 00
2006-003	Blood Bags	356,000 00	2,000 00
2006-004	Fuel & Lubricants	300,000 00	2,000 00
2006-005	Reproduction of various forms /manuals (a) Decision Making Tools (b) FHSIS forms	 250,000 00 255,000 00	2,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No 9184 (R.A 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualifications stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Supply Section (c/o Ms. Zenaida B. Reyes at tel. no. 535-4542) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee on February 20, 2006 – March 3, 2006. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CHD-MM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 8, 2006 (9:00 am) at the CHD-MM Amphitheatre, Acacia Lane Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the CHD-MM Amphitheater, Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City on date stated below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Surety Bond and in the amount of equivalent not exceeding to two and half percent (2.5%) of the total ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the CHD-MM Amphitheatre, Acacia lane, Welfareville Compound, Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City on time and date stated below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below

IAEB No.	Submission of Bids & Eligibility Requirements (Time & Date)	Bid Opening (Time & Date)
2006-001	9:00 am March 22, 2006	9:15 am March 22, 2006
2006-002	1:30 pm March 22, 2006	1:45 pm March 22, 2006
2006-003	9:00 am March 23, 2006	9:15 am March 23, 2006
2006-004	1:30 pm March 23, 2006	1:45 pm March 23, 2006
2006-005	9:00 am March 24, 2006	9:15 am March 24, 2006

The CHD-MM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
DR. RUBEN S. SIAPNO
Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. (632) 535-45-42
E-mail address: chd_mm@yahoo.com
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(Sgd.) RUBEN S. SIAPNO, MD, MPH
Chairman
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(PDI – February 17 & 24, 2006)

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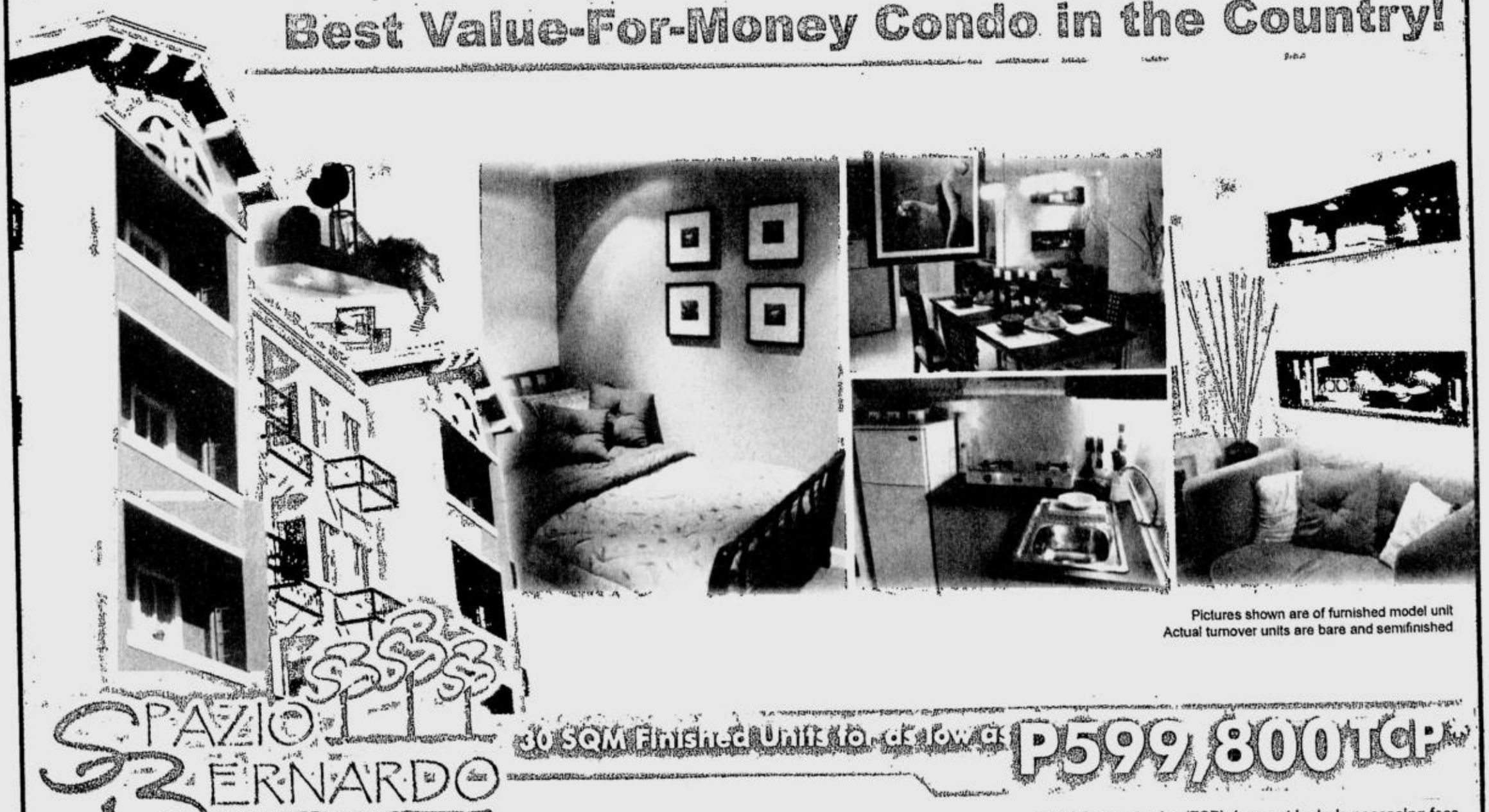

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Cops settle ownership of recovered cash

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR THE POLICE, THE TUG-OF-war for the P49,000 in cash recovered by rescuers from a victim during the "Wowowee" stampede on Feb. 4 at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City is finally over.

"The money was turned over to the wrong family," Eastern Police District (EPD) Criminal Investigation Unit head Chief Insp. Rolly Villar told the INQUIRER.

He asked the children of stampede victim, Aurora Soriano, to whom the cash was "prematurely" returned, to turn over the money to the kin of Virginia Javierto. Both Soriano and Javierto were both killed in the stampede. "We already sent a demand letter to the Sorianos to ask them to return the money," Villar said.

The police said they based their conclusion on evidence like pictures taken during the tragedy, the recovered money, the dresses the victims were wearing on the day of the stampede, and video footage from a bank showing Javierto and her daughters withdrawing money.

Pasig City Rescue volunteer Candy Lacno found the cash while looking for identification cards from the victims.

The money—49 P1,000 bills in a white envelope—was inside the pocket of an elderly woman, who was holding a sky blue bag, Lacno recalled. When she found Soriano's identification card inside the bag, Lacno turned over the money to Soriano's son, Lovinsky.

But two days later, Javierto's son, Rizaldy, surfaced at the Pasig police station with his mother's maroon shirt, brown skirt and green pants that she reportedly wore when she went to the Ultra, and claimed the money was his mother's. To help in the investigation, Lovinsky also brought his mother's light brown shirt and blue denim pants.

Lacno had said the woman in whose pocket the money was found was wearing a blouse with a floral pattern and dark blue jogging pants.

In the two-minute footage, Javierto was shown with her two daughers withdrawing P50,000 from the Philippine Veterans Bank branch in Camp Aguinaldo. From there, the three had gone straight to the PhilSports Arena. Javierto was seen holding a cane, Valenzuela said. This detail matched Lacno's testimony that the woman from whom she found the cash had a wooden cane.

Lovinsky had earlier said they were willing to return the cash if the police could prove it belonged to someone else. Police are still waiting for him to turn over the money to the Javiertos.

Test shots led agents to gunsmith's lair

By Margaux C. Ortiz

HIS NEIGHBOR'S COMplaints regarding his indiscriminate firing led to the arrest of an alleged gunsmith in Lipa City yesterday.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) identified the suspect as Efren Dimaculangan, of Bagoong Pook, Lipa City, Batangas.

NBI agents seized 10 caliber .22 Magnum rifles from the suspect during a buy-bust operation inside his house around 11 a.m. NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala said the suspect had been making rifles for the past two years.

"He was very good at what he did," Lasala said.

Dimaculangan's neighbors had complained about the suspect's indiscriminate firing whenever he needed to test his firearms.

The suspect admitted that among his customers were landowners who bought guns to guard their properties.

"We are also verifying reports that a rifle, very similar to what the suspect has been making, was used in a recent heinous crime in Batangas," Lasala said.

In a related story, Roberto dela Cruz, an alleged gunrunner, was arrested in a separate operation in La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City last week.

NBI agents seized four caliber .45 pistols, three .38 revolvers, and one Ingram submachine gun from Dela Cruz.

ABS-CBN execs, Revillame face NBI probe

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A TOP ABS-CBN EXECUTIVE AND nine other network officers and personalities, including the host of the television game show "Wowowee," Willie Revillame, have been ordered to appear before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday in connection with the ongoing probe of the PhilSports Arena stampede that killed 71 people last Feb. 4.

NBI Deputy Director for Special Investigative Services (SIS) Alejandro Tenerife Jr. yesterday said they have issued subpoenas to ABS-CBN Executive Vice President for Entertainment Charo Santos-Concio, Revillame, Rene Luspo, vice president and security head; Rey Cayabyab, assistant location manager; Mel Feliciano, "Wowowee" staff; Harold James Nueva, associate producer; Owen Garcia, segment producer; Marilou Almaden, production manager and business unit head; Morly Nueva, executive producer-manager; and a still unidentified location manager.

"It is their right to refrain from giving statements," Tenerife said in a press conference at the NBI. "But if they refuse to come and honor our subpoena, they would not be able to give their side." NBI NCR Regional Director Ruel Lasala said they have completed 70 percent of their investigation into the incident.

Meanwhile, the families of 11 victims from Quezon City who died in the stampede yesterday received P10,000 each from the city government.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. led city officials in distributing the money at the Quezon City Hall Bulwagan with city social services head department chief Teresa Mariano. The victims were identified as Enriqueta Labaton, Edna Gonzales, Julian Book, Felicidad dela Vega, Lolita Bergado, Julie Varcas, Teresita Sy, Ofelia Casipe, Helen Nebres, Precila Barsaga and Aurora Soriano. *With DJ Yap*

10 students exposed to mercury out of hospital

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ONLY ONE OF THE 11 STUdents of the St. Andrew's School in Barangay La Huerta, Parañaque City, who showed symptoms of mercury exposure is still in the hospital.

Dr. Olga Virtusio, City Health Office (CHO) head, said the other 10 students have already been sent home while only one remained at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) for further observation.

However, Virtusio could not give more information on the condition of the student who remains in confinement. "So far, we haven't received any feedback from the PGH," she said.

Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, meanwhile, assured the public that the patient in the hospital "is not seriously ill." He added that the 10 others were discharged because they "no longer required further medication in a hospital setting."

"But we are monitoring them closely," Tayag told the INQUIRER.

The kind of treatment that doctors would provide the affected students would be based on the results of their blood tests which would be out by next week.

The 11 students came down with rashes, a symptom of exposure to mercury, following an experiment in their science class Thursday last week.

Their teacher was discussing the chemical with 80 students when some of them started playing with the substance which was in an open beaker.

After some of the students showed signs of mercury exposure, school administrators declared a week-long holiday to allow health officials to decontaminate the school.

Tayag added that the Department of Health (DOH) has yet to determine the extent of the mercury exposure. Asked whether or not the local government would hold the school liable for the incident, Mayor Florencio Bernabe said his decision would be based on the final report of the DOH.

METROBRIEFS

Manila councilor is new city prosecutor

MEMBERS of the Manila City Council yesterday signed a resolution affirming their support for their colleague who has been appointed by Malacañang as the new city prosecutor. Councilor Joseph Lopez, of the city's 3rd district, will assume the position left vacant by Ramon Garcia, who was promoted as associate justice of the Court of Appeals late last year. "We are very proud that the new city prosecutor came from our ranks, in the same manner that we are thankful to the President for her trust and confidence in the capability of our friend Joe Lopez," the resolution read. Lopez, a lawyer-councilor, had served as the city's deputy legal officer for six years, before his election as councilor. *Tina G. Santos*

Valenzuela's 'drug hot spots' named

THE VALENZUELA City police have identified 15 areas in the city which they consider "illegal drugs hot spots." City police chief Supt. Billy Beltran said the use of drugs was rampant in Lingahan, Malanday; Villa Encarnacion in Dalandanan; the Lacson Building and Dulong Tangke in Malinta; Tibagan; Abalos Bukid; Bernardino; Independence; San Gregorio in Gen. T de Leon; Justicia, Tampoy, Little Baguio, P. Deato in Marulas; Bon Bon ville and Lamesa in Ugong. Beltran enumerated the areas during the convening of the Valenzuela City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (VADAC) held at the Kalayaan Hall recently. During the meeting, Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Leopodo Bataoila asked local executives and barangay leaders to help the police in the campaign against illegal drugs. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

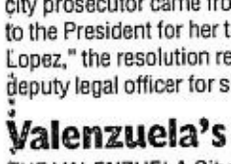


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Las Piñas launches cleanup drive

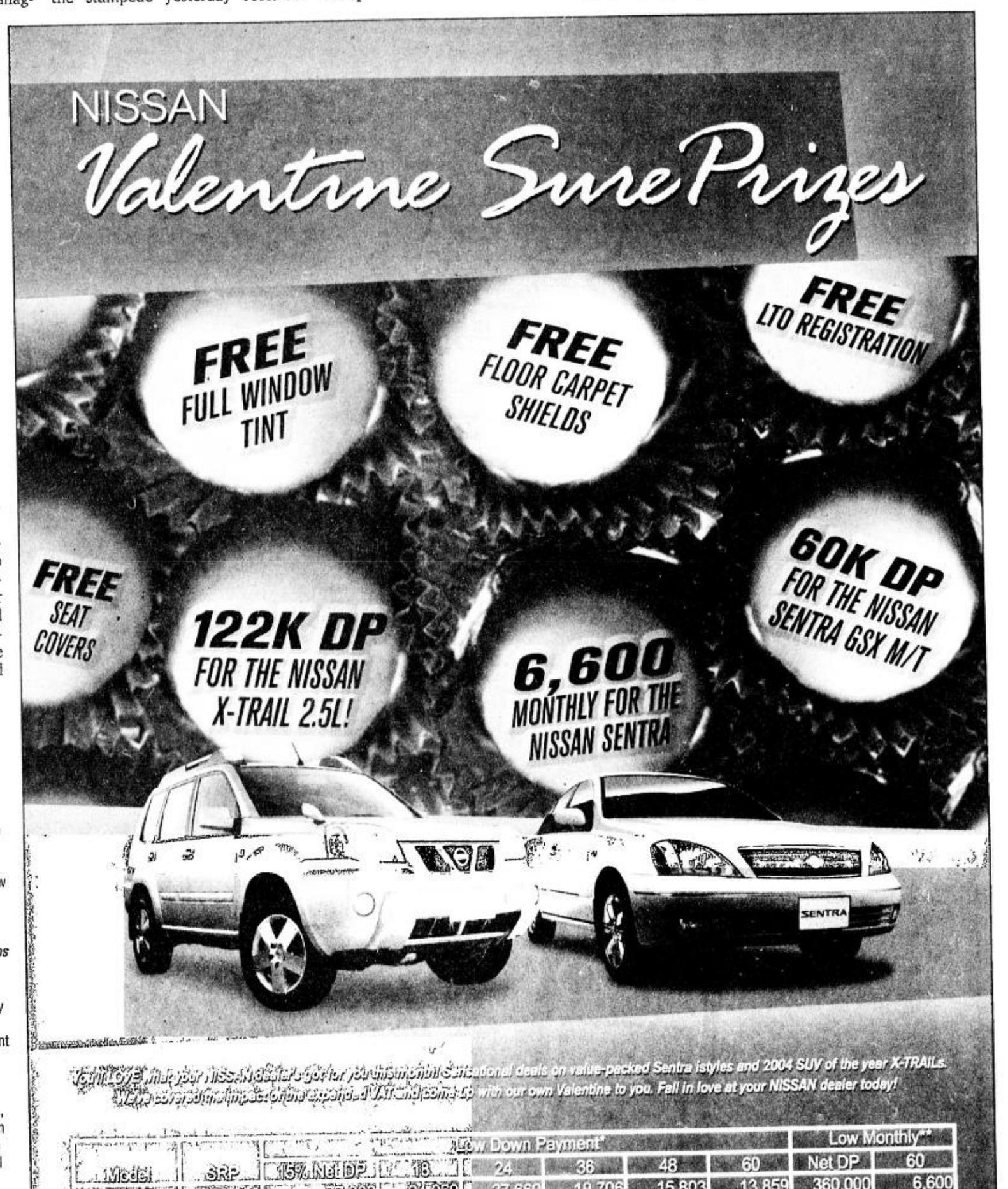
THE LAS PIÑAS City government has asked residents to take part in a cleanup drive dubbed "Sama-Sama Nating Linisin at Pagandahin ang Las Piñas" to help it live up to its title as the cleanest and greenest city in the metropolis. "As the cleanest and greenest city, we should sustain our effort in protecting the environment and cleaning up our community everyday," Mayor Imelda Aguilar told residents in a statement yesterday. The city was proclaimed Metro Manila's Cleanest and Greenest from 1997 to 1999. The following year, it was accorded the prestigious United Nations Environment Program Global 500 Award, for its contribution to protecting the environment. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

MLQ Class '66 reunion today

CLASS 1966 of the Manuel L. Quezon High School of Tondo, Manila, will hold a grand reunion at 6 p.m. today at the Dusit Hotel ballroom, according to class president Tony Lopez, publisher-editor of BizNewsAsia weekly newsmagazine. For details, please contact Lopez at 7447887, Connie Sangalang at 0917-5379369, Edgar Ladores at 0917-5236737 or the class website at mlqhs@yahoogroups.com. All Class 1966 teachers are invited to the gathering.

UPH grand alumni homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help Las Piñas will hold its grand alumni homecoming on Feb. 25, at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the auditorium of the university which is also celebrating its 30th foundation day. For inquiries and reservations, please call 8710639 locals 181, 157, and 128. cellphone nos. 0920-3396787 and 0915-8055283 or visit www.uphralumni@yahoogroups.com.



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EDSA I 20

February 24, Day Three

By PDI Research

12:20 A.M.
June Keithley starts broadcast over dzRJ (christened Radyo Bandido dzRB) by playing "Mambo Magsaysay."

1 a.m.
Church bells ring and word spreads that President Marcos is planning an attack. People again converge on Edsa; tires are set ablaze and sandbags and rocks are piled up.

3 a.m.
Armed Forces chief Fabian Ver is still unable to locate dzRB, which is very near Malacañang.

3:30 a.m.
At Camp Crame, Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile warns of two oncoming armored personnel carriers. Human barricades led by nuns and priests prepare to repel APCs.

4 a.m.
In Washington, US President Ronald Reagan refuses to personally tell Marcos to step down but agrees to give him asylum. US Secretary of State George Shultz calls Ambassador Stephen Bosworth in Manila with instructions to tell Marcos "his time is up."

5 a.m.
Marcos rejects US stand. He vows over radio: "We'll wipe them out. It is obvious they are committing rebellion."

Ver and Army commander Maj. Gen. Josephus Ramas give go-signal for all-out attack on Edsa using tear gas, gunships, jet fighters and Marine artillery.

At Crame, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos calls for civilian reinforcements amid report that large loyalist military force was being assembled.

Rebel soldiers tearfully prepare for battle and request that absolution be given them. They sing the Philippine Military Academy hymn and bid one another farewell.

5:15 a.m.
Tear gas explodes outside Camp Aguinaldo on Santolan. Marcos loyalist soldiers led by Col. Braulio Balbas enter camp and take positions on golf course fronting Crame. More tear gas canisters are launched, but strong breeze blows gas back to loyalist troops.

6 a.m.
Tension rises as helicopters approach Crame. Shortly, seven Sikorskys armed with rockets and cannons land inside the camp. Col. Antonio Sotelo and the entire Air Force 15th Strike Wing defect.

Balbas trains awesome firepower on Crame after hearing exaggerated account of rebel strength from Rodolfo Estrellado of military intelligence. Unknown to Balbas, Estrellado has joined rebel side.

Aboard gunboat, Commodore Tagumpay Jardiniano announces to his 50 officers that he is supporting Ramos-Enrile forces. Officers rejoice after minutes of silence.

Frigate soon drops anchor in Pasig River with guns trained on Malacañang.

6:30 a.m.
Keithley announces that Ver and Marcos and his family have fled the country.

7:30 a.m.
Triumphant Enrile and Ramos address ecstatic crowd outside Crame. Two fighter planes with orders to bomb camp tilt their wings and head toward Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

9 a.m.
To show they had not fled, Marcos appears with his family and his generals on Channel 4. He announces the lifting of his "maximum tolerance" policy and declares a nationwide state of emergency.

Ramas issues "kill" order to Balbas. In reply, Balbas says he and his men are looking for maps.

9:20 a.m.
Ramas again orders Balbas to fire. Balbas answers: "Sir, I am still positioning the cannons."

9:50 a.m.
Rebel soldiers and loyalist troops continue to exchange fire for control of Channel 4. After a demonstrator waving an Aquino banner climbs a wall of the station, a wounded soldier comes out in surrender.

Marcos's press conference is cut off the air.

10:15 a.m.
Rebel soldiers inflict slight damage on Malacañang to indicate their capacity to strike back.

Noon
Three rebel gunships destroy choppers at Villamor Air Base.

12:30 p.m.
Marines led by Balbas withdraw from Aguinaldo.

1:25 p.m.
Channel 4 resumes broadcast, delivering news of more defections.

3 p.m.
With more and more people converging on Edsa and surrounding areas, Singaporean Ambassador Peter Sung offers to fly Marcoses to his country. Marcos refuses.

4:30 p.m.
Ver and Ramas decide to launch final "suicide assault."

Aquino shows up on makeshift stage in front of Philippine Overseas Employment Agency office on Edsa and delivers a brief pep talk.

6 p.m.
In Washington, Reagan agrees to make public call for Marcos's resignation.

Philippine Airlines chair Roman Cruz Jr. addresses his resignation letter to Aquino, making him the first public official to recognize her as duly elected President.

7:30 p.m.
The United States endorses Aquino's provisional government.

8:10 p.m.
Marcos and his entire family appear on television. He appeals to loyalist civilians to go to Mendiola and calls on people to obey only orders issued by him as "duly constituted authority." He declares 6 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew.

9 p.m.
Meeting between Aquino and Ramos-Enrile group ends with decision that her inauguration as President will be held at Club Filipino in San Juan the following morning.

11 p.m.
In Malacañang, the Marcos children's dinner with Chief Justice Ramon Aquino and his son ends. Present are Imee and Irene

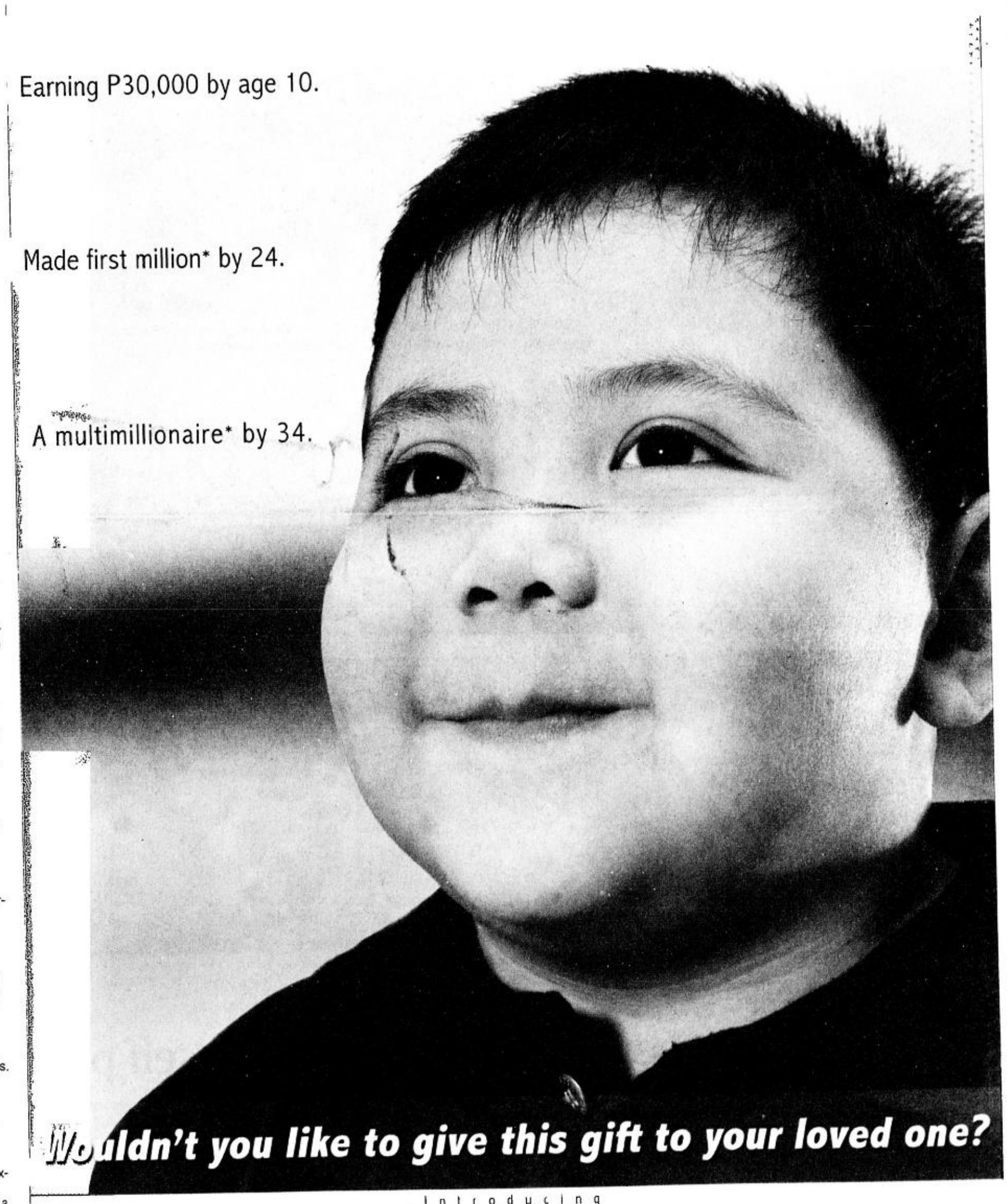
THE CROSS and the cannon at Edsa

and their respective husbands, Tommy Manotoc and Greggy Araneta, and Marcos Jr., who is dressed in fatigues.

Outside, people defy announced curfew and continue to roam streets of Manila.

Officials who withdrew support from Marcos: Gen. Guillermo Picache (ret.) of National Pollution Control, Maj. Francisco Baula Jr., Col. Romy David of Clark Air Base, entire 5th Fighter Wing at Basa Air Base in Pampanga, Commodore Serapio Martillano, Col. Carlos Taniega, Brig. Gen. Augustus Palso of AFP planning unit, Col. Godofredo Rios of V. Luna Hospital *(To be continued)*

Sources: "Chronology of a Revolution" by Angela Stuart Santiago, "Walang Himala: Himagsikan sa Edsa" by Angela Stuart Santiago, "The Quartet Tiger Moon" by Quijano de Manila, "People Power: The Philippine Revolution of 1986," "Bayan Ko" and PDI archives



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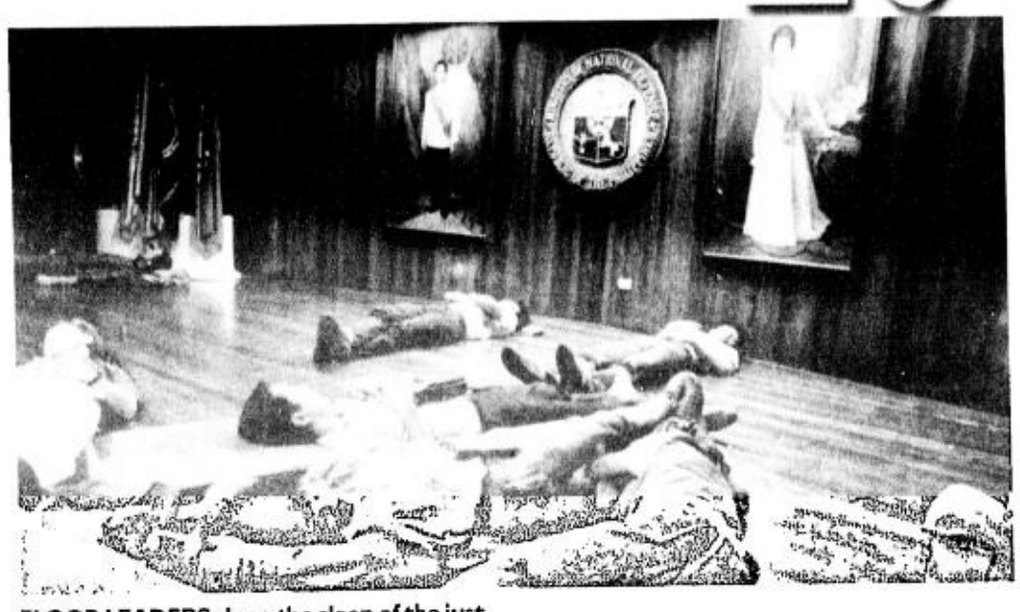
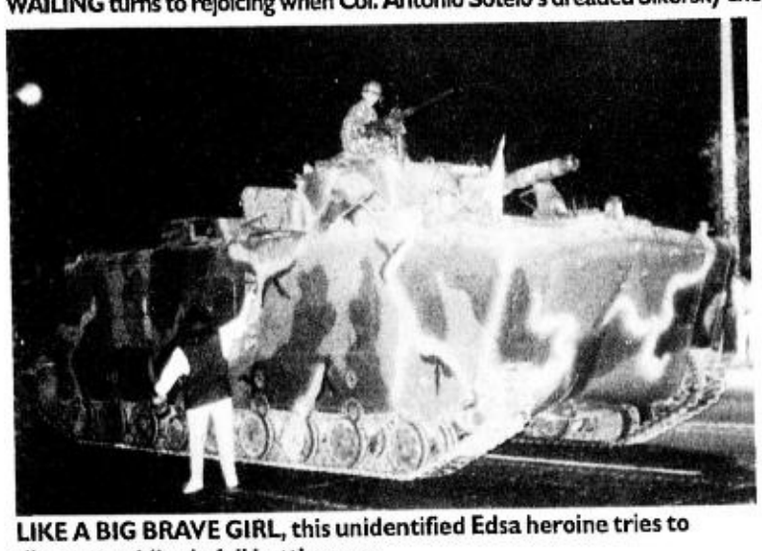
EDSA I 20

WAILING turns to rejoicing when Col. Antonio Sotelo's dreaded Sikorsky choppers are turned over to the Enrile-Ramos camp.



FLOOR LEADERS sleep the sleep of the just.

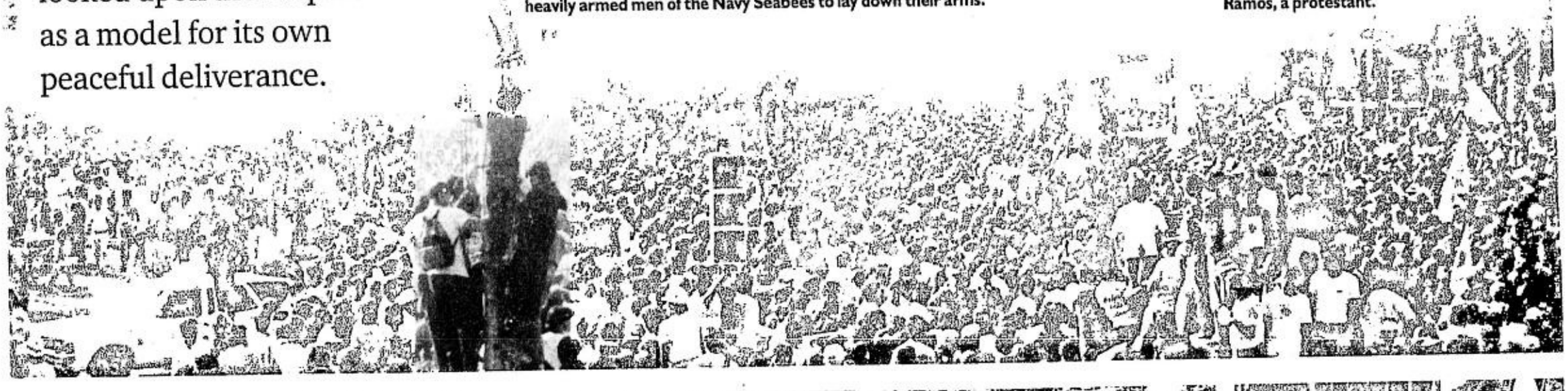


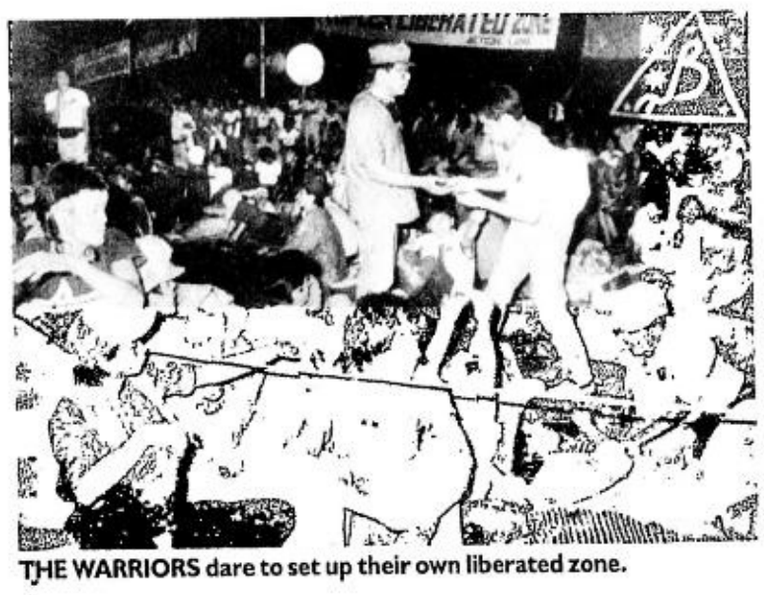
LIKE A BIG BRAVE GIRL, this unidentified Edsa heroine tries to disarm a soldier in full battle gear.

CAPT. ROSENDO C. HERRERA (facing camera in darks glasses) negotiates with a squad of heavily armed men of the Navy Seabees to lay down their arms.

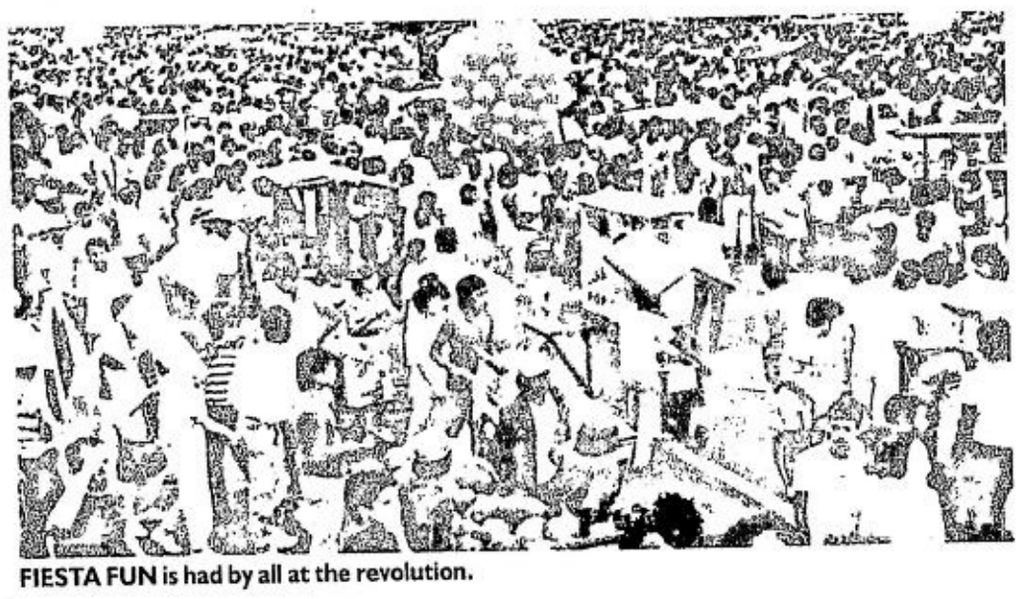
OUR LADY OF FATIMA, Enrile's patroness receives pride of place even in the arms of Ramos, a protestant.

On top of the world that looked upon the Filipino as a model for its own peaceful deliverance.

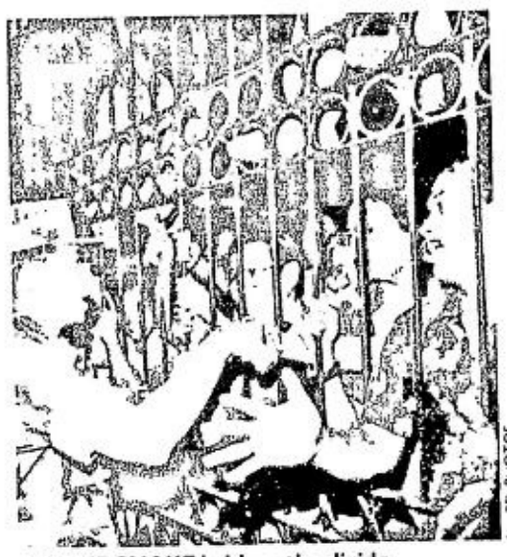




THE WARRIORS dare to set up their own liberated zone.



FIESTA FUN is had by all at the revolution.



A HANDSHAKE bridges the divide.

ALL PDI PHOTOS

THE PEOPLE

'For the first time, I found myself praying'

By Mercedita F. Urbano

I COME FROM THE SO-called "pampered" military establishment of the martial law regime. We lived in Fort Bonifacio. My father was a full-fledged colonel in the Philippine Army.

I grew up thinking of Marcos as God's gift to the Philippines.

Why did I find myself at Edsa, on the opposite side of the road, in February 1986?

My father was felled by an NPA's bullet in a deadly ambush that same year. Did the success of Edsa embolden the NPAs in Davao who ambushed my 53-year-old father? Was my going to Edsa the right thing to do?

That year, I had just graduated from UP. When news of the rebellion broke out, my ears were glued to the radio, listening to developments.

Hearing about entire families camping out on the streets, serving as human barricades without a thought for their safety struck me to the core. We—my sister and I— felt we had to do our own part and go to Edsa.

So we sneaked out. We knew our mother would never allow us to go there, afraid for her daughters' safety.

It was eerily quiet in Fort Bonifacio. The soldiers that we met while walking to the jeepney stop were all pensive and quiet. I realized that they might have been on their guard, watching each other, not knowing anymore who was friend or foe.

When we finally reached Edsa, we were astounded. Edsa was filled with people, smiling to each other and handing out food and water even to strangers.

We walked on. The road was becoming even more tightly packed. In front of the POEA building, a voice from a loudspeaker said a tank column was approaching. I could still remember the rush of adrenaline as everyone started running to block the tanks.

When we went home, our mother was furious. From then on, she guarded us closely, forbidding us from leaving the house.

At dawn, we heard the rumbling of tanks. We later learned that the tanks from Fort Bonifacio were on their way to Camp Crame.

For the first time in my life, I found myself praying for my countrymen, wishing fervently that Marcos would find it in his heart not to attack and spill blood on the streets.

I was thinking of all the innocent, unarmed civilians we saw there, risking their lives. Our prayers, along with the prayers of millions of Filipinos, were all answered. God must have been on Edsa! It was a miracle.

I am now a married woman working in the Senate, and a mother of four. My children ask me why I went to Edsa.

I took part in Edsa because I felt so strongly that I just had to do something. I could not let others do the fighting for me to win the battle that I myself should have been waging, together with my fellow Filipinos.

GMA knocked on doors of embassies

From page A1

the former Presidents. When Cory Aquino declared that she was the President, we were divided into groups to go to the different embassies to seek recognition for Cory's presidency," said the President during a round table discussion on Edsa People Power aired over government television.

"I remember in my group was Angie Barrera and we were about three or four in every group. I remember among the embassies I went to were the Indian Embassy and the Japanese Embassy," said the President.

All but USSR recognized Aquino

One of the panelists, broadcaster June Keithley, said that "all the embassies recognized Cory except Russia which was the only one that recognized Marcos."

"We had to physically pull out of Edsa for a while so we could make the rounds of the embassies. It was a moment that each one of us played our own specific role as designed by the Lord, some more dangerous than others. Twenty years later, I'm glad that major players of Edsa feel it was worth doing it," the President said.

Incoming Presidential Management Staff head Rene Velasco said the President was there every day together with her husband and her three kids—Mikey, Luli and Dato.

"The atmosphere was festive and the President took her family just like the other Edsa participants," Velasco said.

The First Gentleman, a lawyer who owned vast real estate holdings, took pictures of the entire family, said Velasco.

Ms Arroyo was a professor at the Ateneo then and at the same time taking her Ph D at the University of the Philippines.

"She was really anti-Marcos because her father, former President Diosdado Macapagal, and his family were persecuted," said Velasco. "At that time, the President was an activist and took part in anti-Marcos movements."

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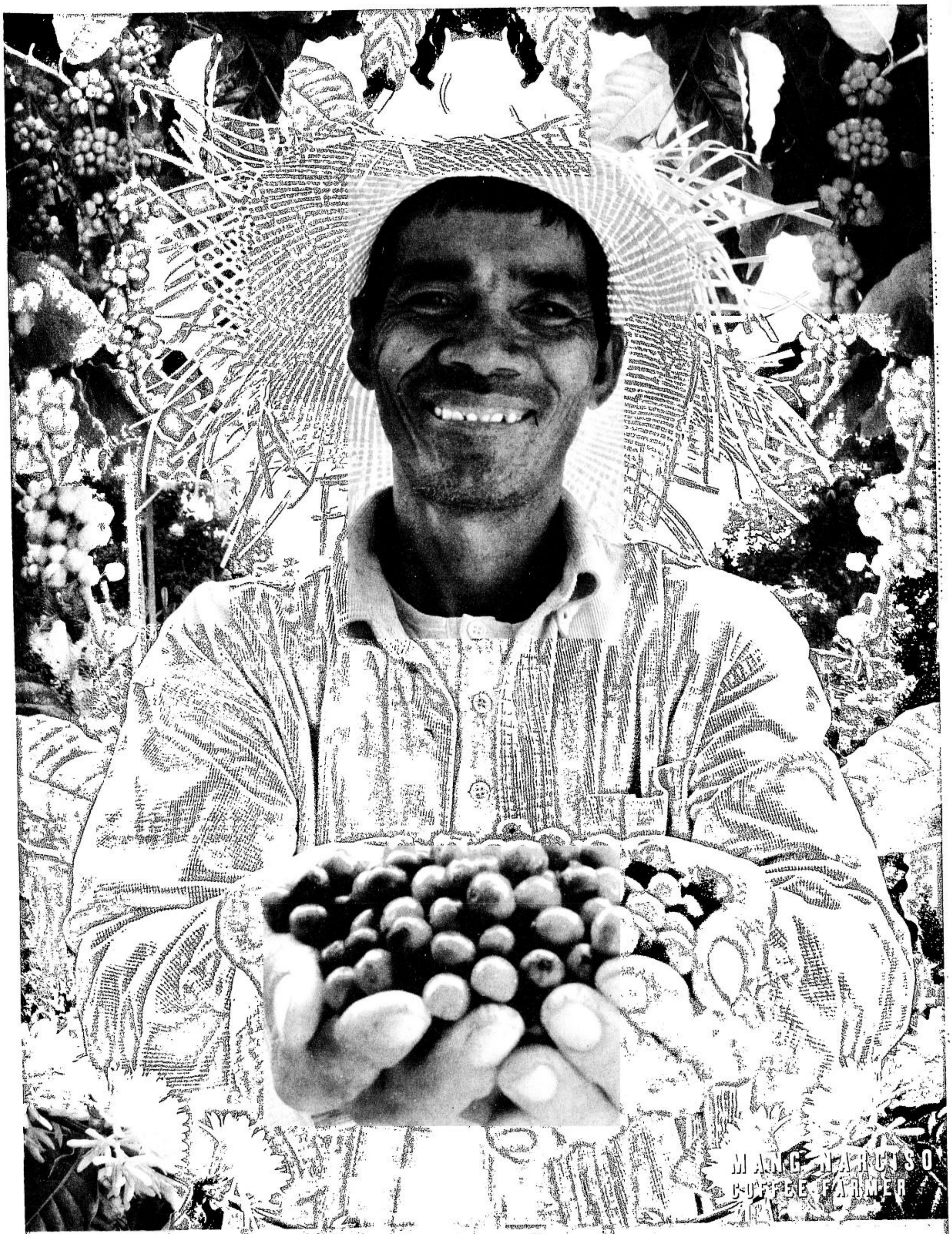

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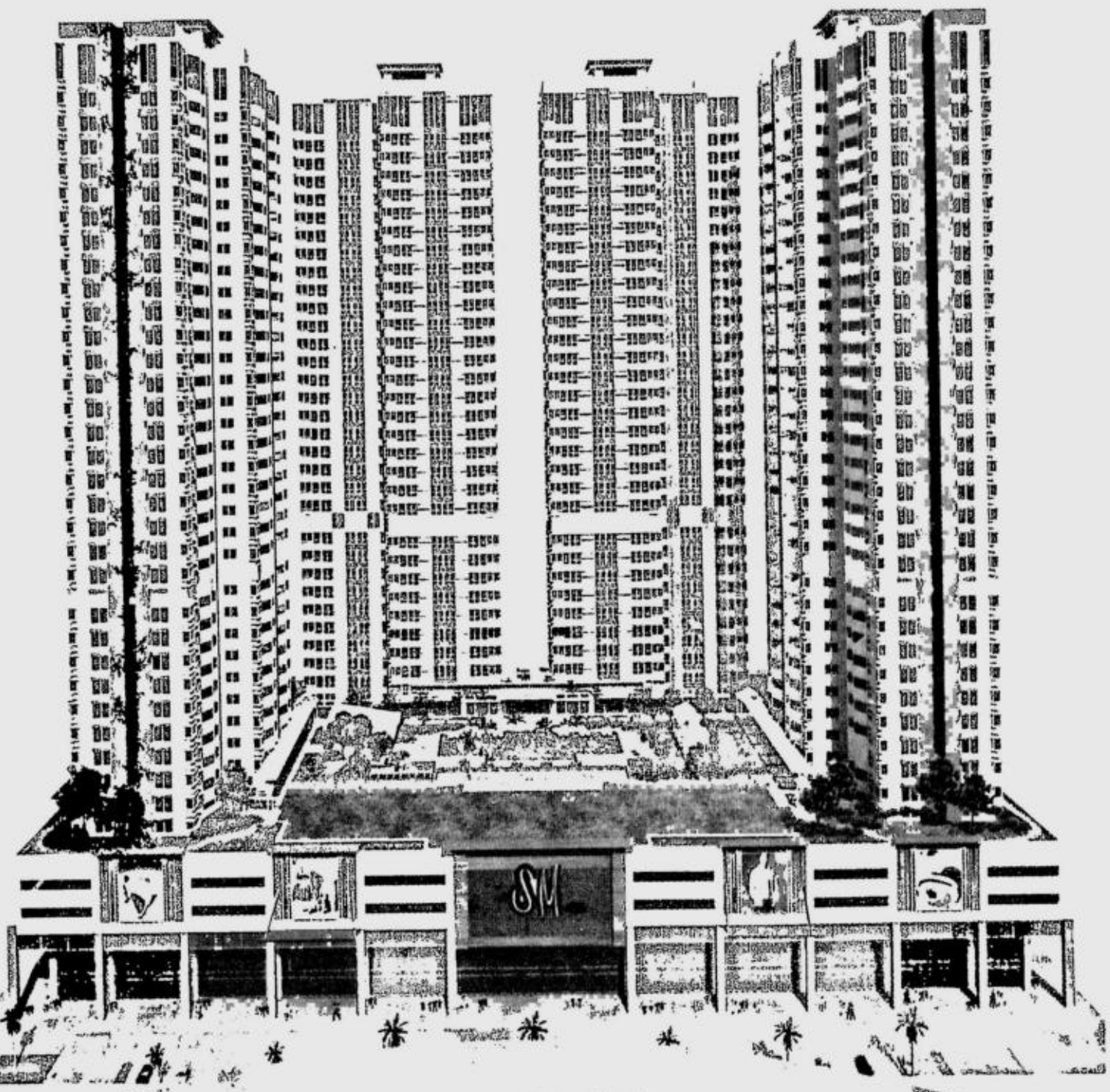

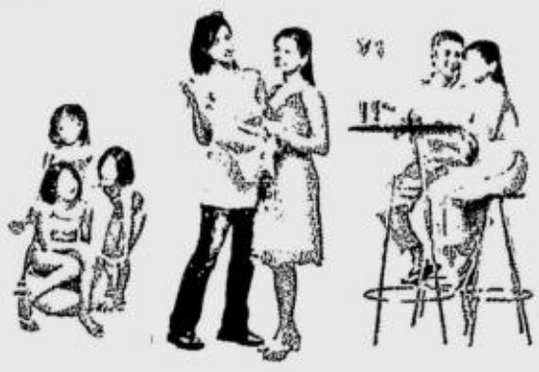

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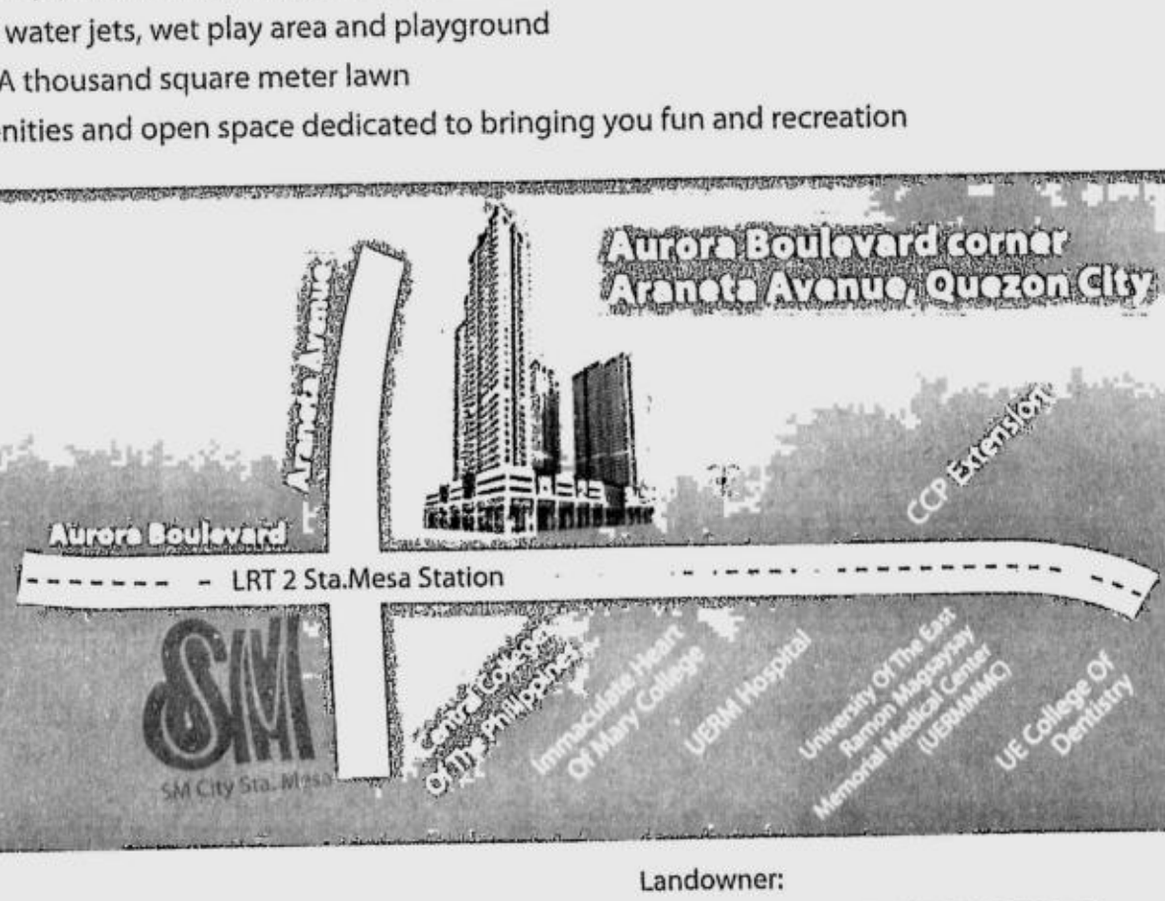

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MISSING A BEAT: Veteran Iggy Clavecilla of Del Monte tries to coax in a birdie putt on the third hole of the Apo Golf and Country Club in the second round yesterday of the 59th PAL Interclub men's regular tournament. *Story on A28* ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Canlubang surges ahead A28

Early-bird Bisera's 68 paces TCC Invt'l

By June Navarro

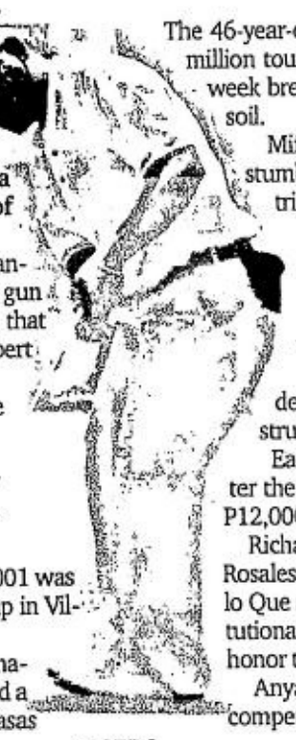
CANLUBANG—LONG SHOT RAMIL BISera fired a two-under-par 68 yesterday to grab a one-stroke lead, even as the country's top parbuster Frankie Miñoza opened up with a horrendous 77 at the start of the rich The Country Club Invitational here.

The Davao-based, early-starting Bisera took advantage of the benign conditions in the morning to gun down four birdies, three of them on the back nine that lifted him ahead of veterans Cassius Casas and Robert Pactolerin.

"I'm quite surprised with my performance," the 31-year-old Bisera, who got going in the day's second flight at the tough par 35-35--70 exclusive course, said in Filipino. "There's no pressure at all considering the presence of the big names in this tournament."

Bisera's only claim to glory after turning pro in 2001 was winning a small tournament known as the Julio Cup in Villamor last year.

Casas, champion in the first edition of the tournament four years ago, bucked a bogey on the 11th and a double bogey on the 13th to tie Pactolerin at 69. Casas had nines of 34-35 while Pactolerin scored 35-34.



BISERA

The 46-year-old Miñoza, who decided to play in this P4 million tournament with the Asian Tour taking a one-week break, posted one of his worst rounds on local soil.

Miñoza had just one birdie, on the 17th, while stumbling with two bogeys, a double bogey and a triple bogey in nines of 40-37.

"My shots are fine despite the strong winds," said Miñoza, who needs a strong round today to join the top 16 players who will vie for the P1.2-million champion's purse in the weekend.

Also falling prey to the howling winds was defending champion Jerome Delariarte, who struggled with a 76.

Each of the 17 players who will miss the cut after the second round will get the survivor's prize of P12,000, a record amount for a non-qualifier.

Richard Sinfuego, Artemio Murakami and Gerald Rosales matched par 70 while Juvic Pagunsan, Angelo Que and Ruben Sasutil had 71s in this event institutionalized by port services magnate Ricky Razon to honor the memory of his father, Don Pocholo.

Anya Tanpinco, a member of the RP ladies squad competing here as a special entry along with team-

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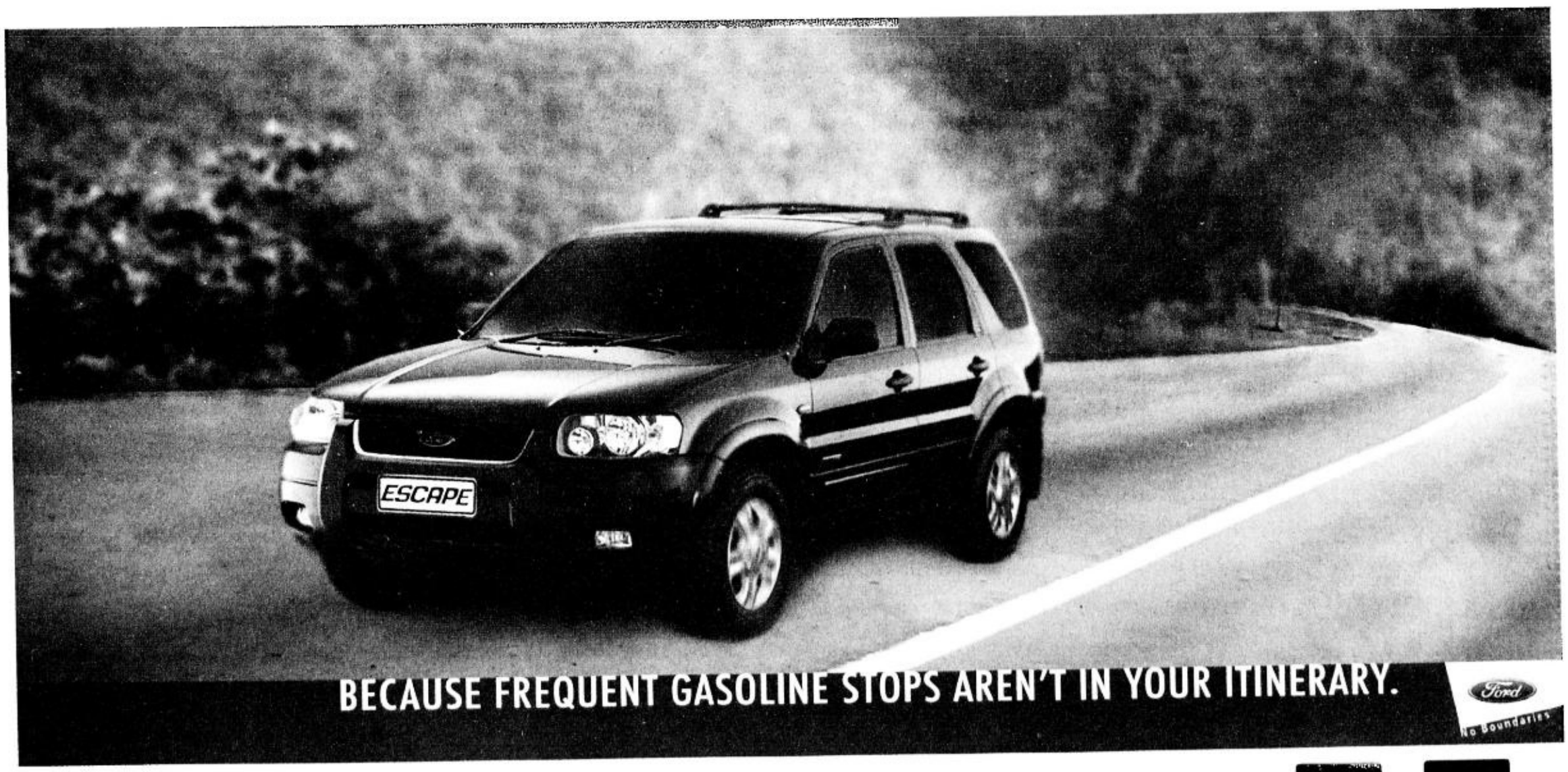

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Rookies strike as Canlubang surges past S'woods

By Musong R. Castillo

DAVAO CITY—CANLUBANG'S PROMISING YOUNG guns spearheaded a swashbuckling charge no team came close to challenging yesterday and the Sugar Barons vaulted into the lead after two rounds of the Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championships here.

Jay Bayron and Jonel Ababa, champions of different caddies' events, tamed Apo Golf with 1-under-par 71s for 37 points, leading Canlubang to a 144 total that not only erased the team's 10-point deficit but gave it an 11-point lead over title defender Manila Southwoods.

It was actually a five-man roster of former caddies—four coming from this course—that pushed Canlubang to the top from third with a two-day 279 total.

And they gave non-playing skipper Luigi Yulo enough reason to be optimistic of a title double, which the Sugar barons set up Saturday with a breakthrough victory in the Seniors division.

Zamboanga native Mark Fernando, one of four rookies in the Canlubang fold, matched par for 36 points and Mario Labajo counted for the second straight day with a 34. The team was so productive that it had to discard Boyet Saragoza's 32.

"If we at least match their (Southwoods) score (in the third round) tomorrow (today at Palos Verdes), this one is over," Yulo said. "It's 'Advantage, Canlubang' at this stage and I think (11 points) is a safe enough lead."

Southwoods stayed in second despite a harrowing day, its measly Day 2 total of 123 led by the 35 of Michael Bibat and the 31 of Erwin Vinluan. The next two scorers were Gene Bondoc (29) and Jong Laput (28). Hanson So Jr.'s 27 did not count.

The Carmona-based squad had a 268 total, just three up on Del Monte, which put together a 129.

National Caddies' Open champion Ababa, whose family lives just a stone's throw away from Apo Golf's main gate, collected five birdies against four bogeys.

Fernando, on the other hand, was working on a three-under card when a four-putt on his 10th hole, which was actually the No. 1, got him undone.

Ondoy Montilla led 2004 champion Del Monte with 36 points, Louie Dacudao shot a 34 and Joel Opaco contributed 32 points. Del Monte missed gaining ground further as Paul Miñoza could no better than a 27. Iggy Clavecilla's 24 did not count.

"We expected this, because all of Canlubang's new recruits are from this place," said Del Monte captain Yoyong Velez. "We'll try to make some adjustments."

John Gobing shot 33 points, Oliver Gan chipped in a 30 and Augusto de Jesus and Matthew Manotoc turned in 29 and 28, respectively, for 120 as Wack Wack bloated its Founders division lead to 14 with a 236 total.

Cebu amassed 119 points and caught Sta. Elena (113) in second spot with a 222 total, with Negros a stroke behind after a 116 at Rancho Palos Verdes.

Stanford also struggled over Apo Golf, shooting a 77 for 175 to barely keep the lead in Friendship division play. Maharlika shot a day-best 90 and vaulted from fifth to second, just two points behind.

In the Sportswriters division action, Palos Verdes assembled a 108 for a 210 total and a five-point lead over Villamor, which shot 100. Sharing third with Manila Golf (96) with 200 totals was Alta Vista, which shot 106.

SEA Games veteran Bayron and Saragoza are also ex-caddies at Apo, and their familiarity with the 7,079-yard course made Yulo decide on fielding them only there.

Abe Rosal will see action in the final two days for Canlubang, which is seeking to win a record 13th regular title. Former RP Am champ Jun Bernis, Ronnie Torrecampo, JR Tanpinco and Joseph Labajo are joining them at the rolling Palos Verdes today.

Lopez, also the Southwoods coach, said that Japanese teeners Toru Nakajima and Matsumura Michio must both post low numbers in the third round for Southwoods to have a decent shot at repeating.

"Their games suit the make-up of Palos (Verdes) perfectly," Lopez said of the two Japanese. "That's why (Southwoods captain) Thirdy (Escano) opted to play them only in that course."

Negros, NCR corner top semis berths

By Cedelf Tupas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—TWO SUPERB SECOND-HALF GOALS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIAN Games veteran Arnie Pasinabo propelled Negros Occidental to a 2-1 nipping of Northern Cotabato and a sweep of Group A in the PFF-National Men's Open championship at the slippery La Paz field.

With the victory, the Negrenses, losing finalists in last year's tournament in Cagayan de Oro City, will face Group B second seed Team Biscocho House-Iloilo in the semifinals tomorrow.

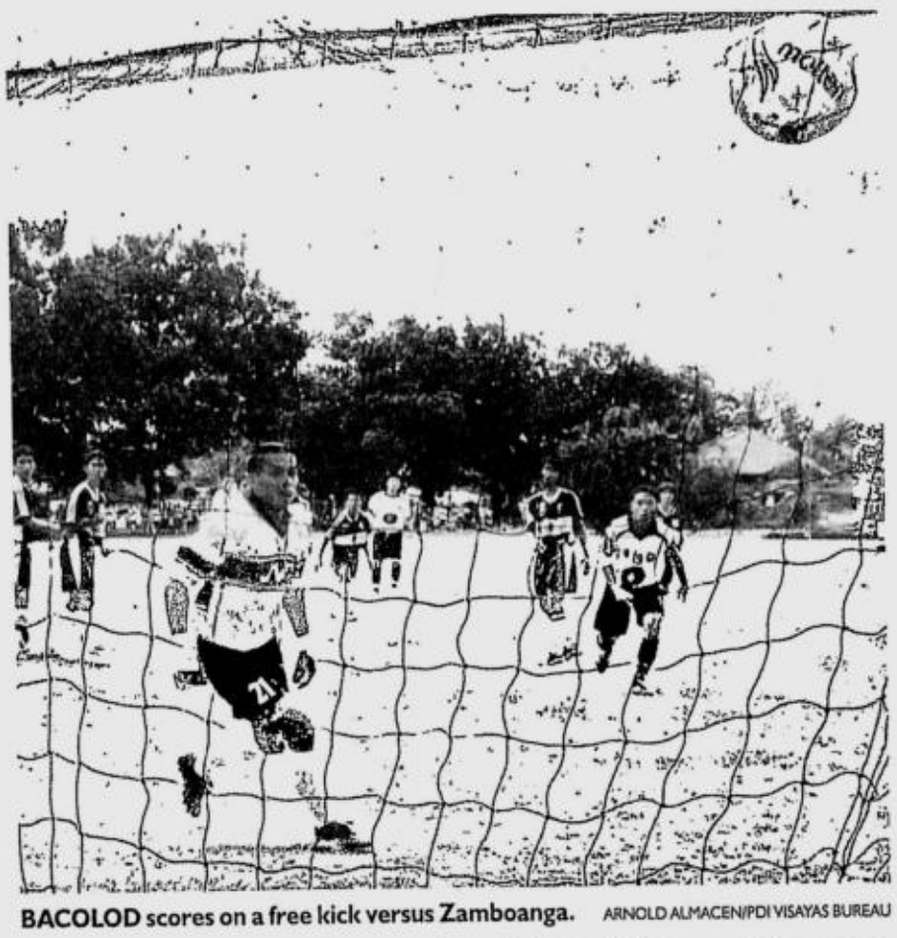
GAMES SATURDAY
(*Barotac Nuevo pitch*)
1:30 p.m.—Negros vs. Iloilo
3:30 p.m.—NCR vs. North Cotabato

Iloilo yielded the top spot to reigning champion National Capital Region, which posted a dramatic 1-0 win over the host team in the football-loving town of Sta. Barbara, about 12 kms from the city proper.

But what hurt most was that it was an Ilonggo, Ian Araneta, who headed in the game-winner in the 70th minute for the Manila booters, who are eyeing a "three-peat" in this tournament organized by the Iloilo Football Association in cooperation with Gov. Neil Tupas, Mayor Jerry Treñas and backed by Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

Adding to the pain is the fact that the 23-year-old Araneta of the Philippine Air Force is also the son of Iloilo coach Lurex.

A defensive breakdown allowed North Cotabato to break the ice in the 20th minute when an unmarked Nicolas Sempesaw calmly beat Negros keeper Archie Bayquin from the left side.



BACOLOD scores on a free kick versus Zamboanga. ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

But Negros came out with renewed confidence in the final half and Pasinabo beat three defenders before blasting the ball with his left foot just outside the box for the equalizer in the 46th minute.

His brilliant glancing header from a Jason Panhay's seemingly harmless cross eight minutes later proved to be the decisive goal in the rain-marred match.

"After the SEA Games, I felt my game had become very inconsistent," said Pasinabo. "But the goals I scored today are enough to build my confidence."

Negros assistant coach Ramon Janeo, who called the shots as regular coach Freddie Lazarito was scouting the NCR-Iloilo game in Sta. Barbara, said they prefer facing Iloilo in the semifinals.

Knights, Tamaraws on collision course

A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE TOP TEAMS of the NCAA and the UAAP looms as Letran and Far Eastern University take on separate foes heavily favored today in the semifinals of the National Students basketball championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Letran battles Cebu Federation of Sports Associations champion University of Visayas at 1:30 p.m., while FEU tackles NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian University at 3:15 p.m.

The Knights, who swept their side of the eliminations, have the edge in firepower over the Lancers, the only non-NCR team in the Final Four.

FEU exposed UV's brittle core Wednesday game by handily winning despite missing top players Arwind Santos, RJ Rizada and Mark Isip.

The bad news for the Dolphins is that the trio will likely show up today to further bolster the Tamaraws' bid to advance to the winner-take-all finals tomorrow. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Early-bird. . . From page A27

mates Debbie de Villa and Lora Roberto, also shot a 71 from the white tees.

First-round scores:

68—R. Bisera 68-68 (35-33); 69—R.Pactolerin (35-34); C. Casas (34-35); 70—R. Sinfuego (35-35); A. Murakami (35-35); G. Rosales (34-36); 71—J. Pagunsan (39-32); A. Que (37-34); R. Sasutil (35-36); A. Tanpinco (Am) (39-32); 72—C. La'O (33-39); C. Villaroman (38-34); B. Magada (39-33); D. Zarate (37-35); M. Pucay (36-36); 73—T. Lascuna (37-36); E. Arcillas (37-36); 74—M. Dizon; 75—R. Pagunsan; 76—D. Cruz, J. Delariarte, D. De Villa (Am); 77—E. Salvador, F. Minoza, P. Minoza, E. Bagtas, R. Cabajar, E. Ababa, R. Alit, L. Roberto (Am), Ron. Pactolerin.

Pacquiao willing to settle $1M case with Elorde

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

RATHER THAN FACE THE PROSPECT OF PAYING UP to $1 million (about P52 million) to his former manager and business manager, boxing hero Manny Pacquiao has indicated that he is willing to cough up an agreed amount than "be hostaged" by what looks like a major hump to his September rematch with Mexican icon Erik Morales.

The latest financial battle Pacquiao is facing was instigated by his former manager Martin Elorde and former business manager Sydney Jay Hall, who had filed a case against Murad Muhammad, Rod Nazario, Roberto Nazario and Philippine Boxing LLC at the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Mateo, last year.

Elorde and Hall had alleged that Muhammad's group had violated the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act by not observing proper tranparency in the business dealings involving Pacquiao's fights in the United States.

However, the charge was amended later to include Pacquiao as a nominal defendant in the case.

Rex "Wakee" Salud, an associate of the boxing superstar, said that Elorde's claim was anchored on the fact that when Pacquiao signed the contract for his first bout with Morales, Elorde was still the legal manager of Pacquiao and Hall was still the business agent, although their contracts had lapsed when the fight took place in Las Vegas.

"Originally, they wanted Manny to pay $1 million, although Shelly Finkel was able to bring down the amount to $425,000," Salud stressed.

"Manny is really hurt by this latest development. He knows from his heart that had done no injustice to Marty and Sydney. His upcoming rubber match with Morales will surely be put on hold if he doesn't pay up."

Pacquiao was in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte, yesterday to distribute financial assistance to the victims to the recent landslide that hit the area.

SPORTSWATCH

105 fights in Pasay today

THE SHOWDOWN of top cockers billed as "Labanan Sa Pasay" 5-cock derby kicks off today at the Pasay City Cockpit with 105 fights on tap. Hostilities start at 2 p.m. in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. "It will be a battle of champions," said host Eric dela Rosa. Heading the long list of participants are Big Event 8-cock champion Patrick Antonio and Manny Pacquiao, Gov. Ito Ynares, Rudy Albano, Jake Macasaet, Rey Briones and 2006 NCA World Championship winner R. Pineda

Clark shelved as sports complex site

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IT'S SACOBIA IN TARLAC, NOT CLARK Field in Pampanga that will be the site of the new modern stadium and training center to replace the old Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC) in Manila.

"Sacobia is an ideal place to build an Olympic-standard stadium," said Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in an exclusive interview with this writer. "It is elevated, cool, pollution-free and safe. Although it is part of the Clark Development Zone, Sacobia is still too far away from the controversial sites in Clark where toxic wastes were reportedly present."

Modesty aside, Mr. Cojuangco's words not only made me glad (over time, I have repeatedly ruled out Clark as a probable site of a new sports and training center because of toxic contamination), but also Myrla Baldonado of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup, who once cited our efforts in their crusade to clean up the toxic wastes in Clark.

The RMSC has outlived its usefulness, said Cojuangco, a former congressman from Tarlac and younger brother of former President Corazon Aquino. "Building a new stadium is a top priority in my POC presidency. We can't get anywhere in our quest for an Olympic gold without a modern international-standard stadium with highly technical facilities where our athletes could train properly."

Even though the country is cash-strapped, Cojuangco said he would find ways to source out the funds needed to construct the proposed modern sports complex in Sacobia. This is a welcome development for Philippine sports because the relocation of the dilapidated RMSC is long overdue. Sacobia is a vast area covering about 5,700 hectares. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos reportedly had a plan to develop the area into a modern sports complex, but before it could even take off the launching pad, the proposal was not completed and, eventually, overtaken by events.

* * *

CHEERS: Despite the unhappy times, there are still people whose deeds gladden the spirit. Among them are leading horse owners and sports patrons Hermie Esguerra and Putch Puyat; Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who won the just-ended San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conferance championship; and the late Olympian Teofilo Yldefonso, the only Filipino swimmer to win back-to-back bronze medals in the 200-meter breaststroke competitions of the 1928 Games in Amsterdam and the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. *(To be continued)*

RACING — BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Sense Of Justice (2), Noble Win (5), Chances Are (3), Good Day (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Summer Rain (3), Cool Goddess (6), Pretty Pretty Girl (2), King's Crown (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Good Landing (1), Ahoy My Boy (3), Mindpower Miss (4), Southern Charm (5)
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Silver Music (3), Golden Issue (2), Mary Jane Bomb (9), Express Strike (6), Gentleman's Lady/Divine Right (5)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Semper Spirit (5), Golden Fantasy (6), D As In Dixie (4), Smokin' Red (3)
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Tini Bambini (5), Espirikitik (6), Queen's Abbey (2), Casanova (7), Speed King (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Winter's Fury (4), Cognac Monnet (3), Hidden Pleasure (2), Conquer D'Sun (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Candu (5), Manila Magic (4), Gun Powder/Distinctive Dancer (1), Western Legend (7)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Yao Man (5), Sound Value (9), Uncle (7), Mountain Eagle (3), Ocean Cookie (2), Tell Henry (8)

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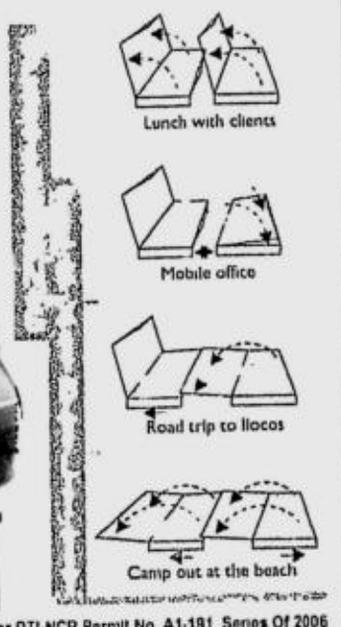

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NISSAN

Angry Tiger rips foe

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA—WORLD number one Tiger Woods posted the most lopsided victory in the history of the Accenture Match Play Championship on Wednesday, a 9 and 8 rout of Stephen Ames.

Woods, motivated by an injudicious pre-tournament remark by his opponent, won every hole on the front nine before halving the 10th to complete the first-round triumph.

The previous record margin of victory in the World Golf Championships event was 7 and 6.

Most of the other top seeds advanced, including Fiji's Vijay Singh, South African Retief Goosen and Phil Mickelson. South Africa's Ernie Els was the biggest casualty, beaten by Germany's Bernhard Langer 1 up.

Looking ahead to his pairing with Woods, Ames had offered an anodyne "Anything can happen."

But the Trinidad-born player now based in Canada went on to add: "Especially where he's hitting the ball."

WOODS: Most lopsided victory. REUTERS

That didn't sit well with Woods. He made mincemeat of his opponent, who failed to produce a single birdie.

Woods birdied the first six holes, as well as the eighth, and won the seventh and ninth with pars.

"Stephen provided it, definitely," Woods said of his motivation. "I think he understands now."

In an earlier match, Tom Lehman did not drop a shot as he outlasted Stuart Appleby, 3 and 2.

Lehman, this year's US Ryder Cup captain, played well, but he also had some help from the Australian.

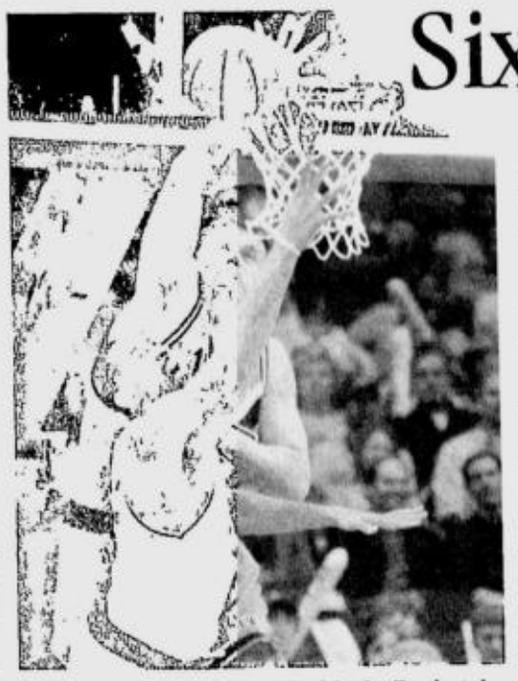
"Stuart didn't play his best. He gave it to me," Lehman said. "He had a 1-up lead and missed two four-footers at the ninth and 11th to give me back the lead. But I played very strong, no bogeys, and I had a nice birdie to finish off the match."

Lehman's second-round opponent will be another Australian, Adam Scott, who recovered from a woeful start to beat Lucas Glover 2 and 1.

Scott bogeyed the first two holes but won three holes in a row starting at the sixth to take the lead in a match that never rose to great heights.

In other early matches, Davis Love beat Australian Mark Hensby 2 and 1, while Sweden's Carl Pettersson outlasted Kenny Perry, 1 up. *AFP*

Sixers prevail



CLIPPERS' Zelijko Rebraka blocks Rockets' Juwan Howard in their NBA game. AP

SOLAR SPORTS will air the Sacramento-LA Lakers tussle at 11:30 a.m. today with a replay at 8 p.m.

NEW YORK—ALLEN IVERSON SCORED 29 points and had 12 assists to guide the Philadelphia 76ers to a 116-107 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday in Philadelphia.

Chris Webber added 24 points and hauled down 14 rebounds for the Sixers, who held a double-digit lead for most of the second half but had to survive a late Cleveland comeback.

Andre Iguodala, who was named MVP of the Rookie Challenge and was second in the slam dunk contest during the All-Star weekend, added 25 points for Philadelphia.

LeBron James, the All-Star MVP, scored 33 points and had six rebounds and five assists to lead the Cavaliers.

In Atlanta, the Seattle SuperSonics beat the Hawks, 114-109, while in East Rutherford, New Jersey nipped Orlando, 96-93. *Reuters*

Complete Results: Philadelphia 116, Cleveland 107; Seattle 114, Atlanta 109; Miami 103, NY Knicks 83; New Jersey 96, Orlando 93; Utah 82, N.O./ Oklahoma City 76; Houston 106, LA Clippers 102; Chicago 97, Milwaukee 91; Phoenix 103, Boston 94; Charlotte 110 Portland 106.

Paerson clinches 1st Olympic gold

TURIN, ITALY—ANJA PAERSON HAD TWO overall World Cup crowns and four world championships. On Wednesday, the Swede finally added an Olympic title.

And with Bjoern Lind taking gold in the men's 1.3km sprint, Sweden matched its best Winter Olympic haul of 10 medals in 1956.

The 24-year-old Paerson beat rival Janica Kostelic, who could only manage fourth in the women's slalom behind Austrians Nicole Hosp and Marlies Schild. "She really wanted this gold for us," Paerson's father and coach said. "The Olympic Games are the biggest thing."

Cindy Klassen led a Canadian 1-2 in the 1,500-meter speedskating race, while Chandra Crawford claimed gold in the women's 1.1-km cross-country skiing sprint. *AP*

Elite cage camp April 7-12

THE INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL ACADEMY (IBA) presents the Elite Basketball Camp, a by-invitation and all-expense paid event for the National Capital Region's best and brightest high school prospects on April 7-12. NBA and PBA coaches/players like David Wood, Eric Altamirano and Alex Compton will serve as teachers in the stay-in-camp which will be held at the Brent campus in Mamplasan, Laguna. NCR schools will nominate 10 varsity players each from where the 80 camp participants will be chosen. Apply at the schools' principal and coach/sports director offices. Submit entries until Feb. 28 at IBA head office at 30/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and at the Project Secretariat office at 26 Rosas St., Valle Verde 2, Pasig City. For info, call 631-1195/ 631-1959 (Marissa or Mylene).

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Municipality of Bonifacio

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Bonifacio with office address at Poblacion Bonifacio Misamis Occidental through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project: Procurement of One (1) Unit BRAND NEW Articulated Motor Grader GD 511A-1

Location: Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental

Brief Description:
Engine: S6D95L turbocharged direct injection diesel engine; air cleaner, double element type
Electrical System: Alternator, 25-ampere; Starting motor, 5.5-kW; Batteries, 2x12-volt 100-AH
Operator Environment: Seat, rigid type, height adjustable; Speedometer, Km/h indication
Work Equipment : 3.7-meter blade; Bank cut system; Drawbar shift, hydraulic
Special Arrangement: Hard water area arrangement (engine with corrosion resister)
Other Standard Equipment: Front and rear tires (13.00-24 8PR tubed G2) with rims; Front weight; Wired stepladders; Marks and plates, English Painting
Equipped with the following attachments:

4GB11Z-B	SCARIFIER ASSY, 9 SHANKS	6GB01-B	CANOPY, CANVAS TOP
6GA01-B	HEAD LIGHTS	6GK14	INSTRUMENT PANEL COVER AND LOCK
6GA03-C	WORKING LIGHTS, FRONT	6GL22	WATER SEPARATOR
6GAD5-C	WORKING LIGHT, REAR	6GM51-B	ENGINE SIDE COVERS
6GA14-C	COMBINATION LIGHT	6ZWALL	ALL MATERIALS
6GA15	BACK-UP ALARM	6ZZ31	GENERAL TOOL KIT
6GA22	REAR VIEW MIRROR, LH & RH		

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): Nine Million Pesos (P9,000,000.00)
Contract Duration: Six (6) months
Delivery Period: 3-4 months

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	March 13-14, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	March 17, 2006 @ 10:00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	April 3, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	April 4, 2006
5. Post-qualification	April 5, 2006
6. Notice of Award	April 7, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the LGU Cashier.

The Local Government Unit of Bonifacio assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) VIRGINIA A. BACARAMAN
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Feb. 24 & March 3, 2006)

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Shimano Reel Sahara 6000

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Shimano Reel Sahara 4000

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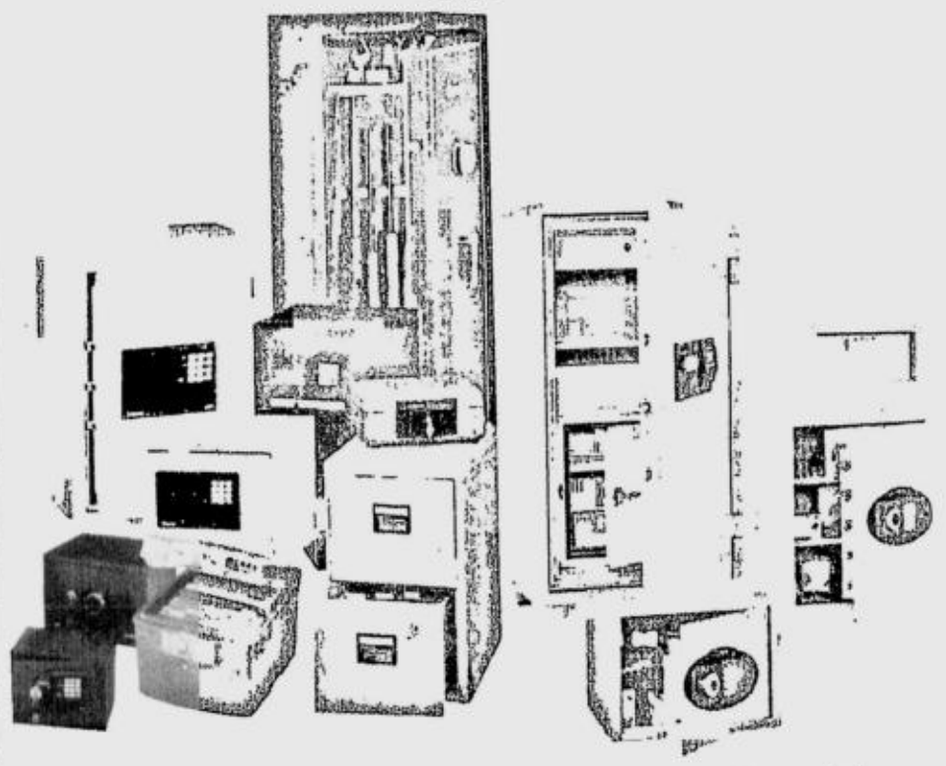

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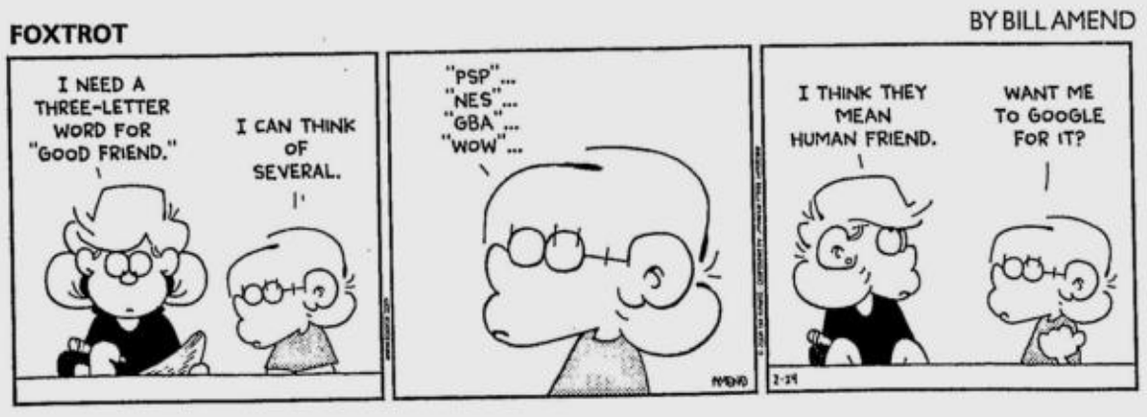


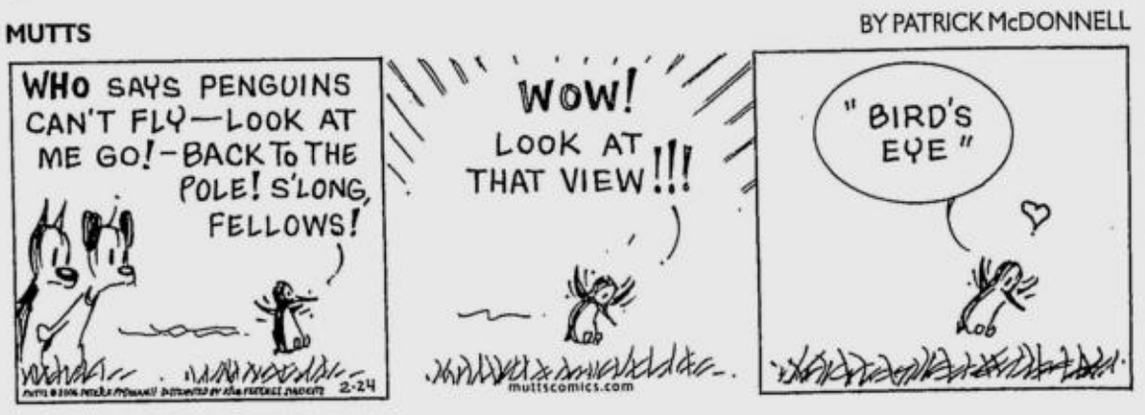
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

THE DAYS BEFORE GENESIS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you're always willing to give up things for others, it's important for you to find a way to please yourself as well as that important person in your life. You're extremely open and giving. Your unselfishness promotes a desire to work for the betterment of others. In order to learn something important this year, you'll likely spend more time by yourself.
Birthdate of: Eddie Murray, baseball player; Billy Zane, actor; Alain Prost, race-car driver.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to talk to bosses, parents and important people. They think you're charming! They also assume you think along their lines. (Whether you do or don't.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Try to go somewhere so you can see something beautiful. Visit galleries, libraries, museums and boutiques. Go to a park.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Someone will be generous to you today. Be receptive and open to the offers from others. This help could be practical or just psychological support.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're very sensitive to what others need today. Because of this, conversations with others are meaningful, gentle and mutually satisfying.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a lovely day at work. You're very aware of how others do things; therefore, you know how to fit in. Something could happen that boosts your earnings in some way. (Fingers crossed.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a lovely day for romance or any kind of social occasion. You feel friendly and attractive. It's a winning combination! Who can resist you?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You like a beautiful home. This is a good day to buy something beautiful for your home. You might want to rearrange furniture or tweak things so that everything looks better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Even if you don't know why, you're happier today. All your conversations with others are sweet and rewarding. Some of you can make money from your writing or your communicating style today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. If you shop, you'll buy something beautiful or attractive and get a good value. In fact, buying art could be profitable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today both the Moon and Venus are lined up in your sign. This gives you a balanced outlook on things. It also makes you appreciate beauty. It's a good day to buy wardrobe items.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You feel gentle with yourself today. You see that if you can't love yourself, how can you love anyone else?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Because you're unusually sensitive to others, your conversations with friends and groups will be very winning and very pleasant. People want to be in your company today.

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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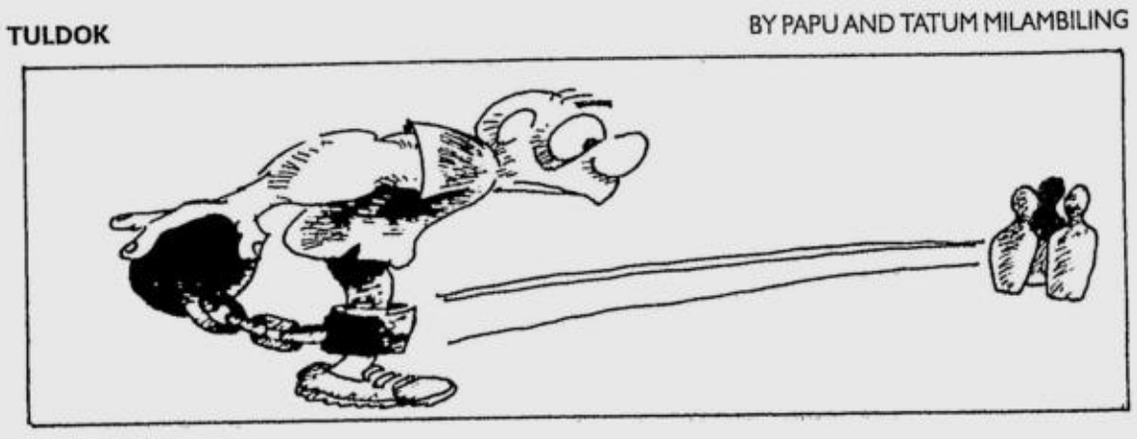

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Eager
5 Small globule
9 Haste outcome, perhaps
14 Bardot's dad
15 Words to Brutus
16 Patriot Allen
17 Elated?
19 Wary
20 Relatives by marriage
21 Fewer
23 Pollution patrol grp.
24 Weaselike mammal
25 Fruit of a fragrant flower
27 "La Mer" composer
29 Fitzgerald's forte
32 Addams Family relative
35 Sharp turns
36 Landed estates
38 Stands idly
40 Billings state
41 Halogen compound
42 Track tipster
43 Rocky pinnacle
44 & others
45 Math proposition
48 Dais stand
50 Lethal slipknot
54 Taxi
56 Lukas of "Witness"
57 Noisy napper
58 Short ad
60 Refused advance?
62 Diarist Nin
63 "Time Machine" race
64 Con
65 Suit material
66 Colorer
67 Fuel-line element

DOWN
1 Plant pest
2 Davis of "Hero"
3 Toothbrush brand
4 Ford or McRaney
5 Actress Armstrong
6 Ike's command
7 Dumbfounded
8 Force
9 Cardiff folk
10 Took lunch
11 Wool?
12 Infield coverage
13 "Orinoco Flow" singer
18 Plucked
22 Principal Skinner on "The Simpsons"
25 Bad hair pieces
26 Ain't right?
28 Clerical cap
30 River of Pisa
31 Russian emperor
32 Nastase of tennis
33 Beep
34 Wet pig?
37 TV adjunct
39 Do a roof, perhaps
40 Natural satellite
42 In a short way
46 Cured
47 Bread or dough
49 Picked
51 Maine town
52 Ushers
53 Golfer Els
54 Some IRS employees
55 Composer Thomas
57 Use a swizzle stick
59 USSR jet
61 Enemy

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY
2/24/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	A	P		C	R	E	E	P		F	O	R	K
T	I	L	L		H	O	T	E	L		A	L	A	I
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W	H	E	N	O	N	E			B	R	I	N	G	S
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		N	E	A	H		H	I	S	W	I	F	E	A
L	E	A	D		P	O	U	F		E	A	R	N	S
A	C	T		G	I	F	T	F	O	R		I	N	K
W	H	O	R	L		F	I	S	T		S	E	A	S
N	O	R	E	A	S	O	N		C	O	H	N		
			O	R	E	N	S	L		L	E	D	G	E
T	H	E	R	E	S			A	R	E	A	S	O	N
R	A	I	D		T	H	O	S	E		T	H	U	D
E	T	R	E		E	M	B	E	D		H	I	D	E
Y	S	E	R		T	O	I	L	S		S	P	A	R

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Cheryl Burke pines for 'sinigang'

... and Oliver Platt recalls visits to RP as envoy's son

FIL-AM Cheryl Burke and Drew Lachey, left, compete today in the finals of "Dancing with the Stars," a top-rated TV show in the US.

LOS ANGELES—"I WISH I COULD HAVE *sinigang* right now," **Cheryl Burke** told us as she and her partner **Drew Lachey** of 98 Degrees compete in the final week of the top-rated TV show, "Dancing with the Stars."

Cheryl, daughter of Manila-born (and raised in San Jose, Nueva Ecija) **Sherri Bautista Burke**, and Drew are duking it out in dance numbers against wrestler **Stacy Keibler** and partner **Tony Dovolani**, and NFL great **Jerry Rice** and partner **Anna Trebunskaya** Thursday evening (today at noon in Manila).

"A huge thank you from the heart to my fellow Filipinos," Cheryl told us in an e-mail interview. Filipinos, especially those in the US, have been avidly voting for her and Drew via phone and online polls and are expected to rally for the dancing couple. Thursday is the last chance for viewers to vote. "Yes, Drew is very much aware of the Filipinos' support and is very grateful. His band, 98 Degrees, has performed in the Philippines and he has some good memories of the Philippines and Filipinos."

The winning pair will be announced in a special finale show on Sunday evening.

Cheryl said two Pinays inspired her to dance: "My mother, **Sherri Bautista-Burke**, dances and competes in ballroom dancing, amateur level, with my stepdad Dr. Bob Wolf. Regretfully, I didn't get to meet my grandmother, **Rosario Bautista**, who passed away even before I was born. She was a high school Physical Education teacher in the 1950s and '60s who brought beauty, grace and passion through dancing and inspired high school students in San Jose, Nueva Ecija. I believe I inherited her love for dancing."

Two Pinoy Christmases

Oliver Platt, who co-stars with Heath Ledger in "Casanova" and with **John Cusack** in "The Ice Harvest," is the son of **Nicholas Platt**, who was US Ambassador to the Philippines in 1987.

The highly regarded actor, a college student when he visited his parents (mother is **Sheila Platt**) in the Philippines, remembered being scared for his Dad because of the heavy security. "But my parents were used to it," Oliver told us.

Towering at 6'3", Oliver grew up in the Middle East, Asia and Washington, DC. He had attended 12 different schools before he turned 16. "It's no way to raise a kid," he has been quoted as saying. "It's a wonder I didn't set fire to any building."

But he did get kicked out of three Japanese schools in one year. Now 46, he believes the skills he acquired to be assimilated quickly in a new city honed his thespian talent.

In "Casanova," one of Heath's two well-received films last year (the other one being about those cowboys left with sheep on the mountain), Oliver plays Paprizzio, Genoa's lard king. Heath, in the title role of the legendary lover, cons Oliver into a hoax so he can have the one girl in Venice (**Sienna Miller, Jude Law**'s on again-off again fiancée) who wants nothing to do with Casanova.

Oliver said he had fun in the role although he is covered in goo in one scene. At the end of this movie that also features **Jeremy Irons** camping it up as a Bishop, Oliver gets Lena Olin, real-life wife of **Lasse Halstrom** ("Chocolat" and "The Cider House Rules"), who directs.

In "The Ice Harvest," Oliver plays a drunk but, thanks to his acting skills, he makes you want to be his drinking buddy. John Cusack gets this privilege in the dark comedy that also stars **Billy Bob Thornton, Randy Quaid** and **Connie Nielsen**, whom we last saw in "The Great Raid."

Below are excerpts of our interview with Oliver.

What does your father say about his stint in the Philippines?

He treasures his experience there because he was the first ambassador to be fully identified with (then President Cory) Aquino and

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SYRIANA	2 FINAL DESTINATION 3	3 THX MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 PINK PANTHER	5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN	6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	7 CLOSE TO YOU
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 AEON FLUX		2 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SYRIANA 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 2:10, 5:05, 8:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 MUNICH 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA		2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2	
	3 SYRIANA	4 PINK PANTHER	5 FINAL DESTINATION 3	
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David Ansen, NEWSWEEK

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1 SYRIANA • THX
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2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MURDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 AEON FLUX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 PINK PANTHER
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 MURDER
12:35 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50

3 CLOSE TO YOU
11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00

4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 SYRIANA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 SYRIANA
1:10 3:40 6:10 9:00

3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
11:55 2:55 5:55 9:00

4 AEON FLUX
11:50 1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

7 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

8 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

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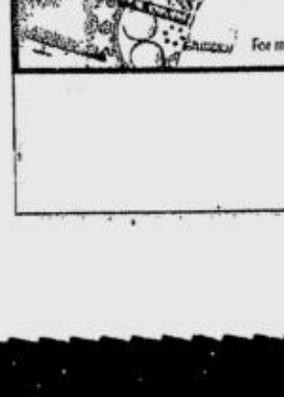

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OLIVER'S father is the former US ambassador to RP, Nicholas Platt.

Cheryl Burke pines for 'sinigang'

From page A2-1

her regime. He actually stayed for three tours [of duty]. It was an incredibly dangerous time for him, too. The country was shifting away from years of Marcos dictatorship to democracy and there were a lot of very angry people.

I went to visit for two Christmases and had a great time. I was in college then and starting to do my own thing so I didn't spend as much time as I would have liked. My father goes back [to RP] all the time. My mother also does, because she became very involved in a lot of aid organizations there. As a career diplomat, my father's idea of a good time is going to a place where there's work to be done, not necessarily Paris or London, where there's a lot of parties.

How did you end up becoming an actor?

I grew up all over the world, especially in the Far East. It's not uncommon at all for people who grow up that way to go into performing arts and communications. [There's this] famous Third Culture Study, named after its conclusions ... People who are born someplace and then grow up someplace else, create a third culture by going into the world of make-believe, the performance arts.

I moved a lot and I was never really that good at being a new kid. I didn't like it and I don't think it's good for anybody to be a new kid all the time. In one particularly difficult time, I moved from Hong Kong back to Washington when I was about 8 years old. I was enrolled in this very snotty private school. I auditioned for the Christmas play and I was cast as the innkeeper. I had one line but I completely lost my bearings. I turned Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus away from the inn and for whatever reason, the entire place went nuts. They just were so deeply entertained by the way I did it. When you're a lonely screwed up little kid and you get that kind of reaction from people, you pay attention. I started doing it all the time. It became a way for me to plug in when I got to a new place. I would audition for a play and I would have an instant group of friends.

Lena Olin shared with us that she finds you sexy. She said that when she told you so, you went, "No, no, no, I am not."

First of all, I'm very flattered by that. I guess it kind of goes hand in hand with [my own theory]: The people that I find attractive are people who have no idea that they're attractive. There's nothing less attractive to me than somebody who obviously thinks that they're incredibly attractive.

When you were younger, what did you do to attract the girls?

I have absolutely no clue because I don't think I was very good at it. I was always the guy who found out later that I actually had a much better chance with the women that I was interested in than I actually knew at the time.

Part of the charm of "Casanova" is the mistaken identity plot element. Have you ever been mistaken for somebody else?

Oh, sure. I was at a "Harry Potter" premiere with my kids and some little kid walked up to me and thought that I was Hagrid without the beard (laughter), and I did the wrong thing. I told him I wasn't Hagrid. I should have just signed his thing (laughter) and given it back to him. But I said I'm not Robbie Coltrane and the kid was disappointed. I go, damn it, I didn't need to do that.

In the movie, you look much bigger than you are in real life.

I was wearing a fat suit. I have these fake teeth and we put what's called plumpers in them. I already have a plump face but they made it plumper (laughter). That's why we decided to call them plumpers.

At one point in the movie, you were all covered up in goo. What material was that made of?

It was basically latex, some sort of a mysterious compound of latex. They had liquid filled in it to make it move. It's disgusting but remarkable.

In "The Ice Harvest," you play a drunk, yet we are fascinated with your character. What do you look for in accepting this kind of role?

I look for a good story. The character Paprizzio is a beautiful piece of writing. **Robert Benton** and **Richard Russo** wrote this kind of love song to the lost American male. It's about how hard it is to be a man in America. This character is a guy who has followed all the rules—followed the handbook, got a good job, a trophy wife, a fancy car—and yet, he's miserable. It's Christmas Eve and he's terrified because he's not happy. He meets the character of John Cusack and I steal his wife while I renovate his house. I become someone who is just looking for anybody to distract him from going home.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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3 SYRIANA — 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 — R-13
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PINK PANTHER GP 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50
SYRIANA R13 2:20,5:00,7:40,10:20
CLOSE TO YOU GP 12:20,2:40,5:00, 7:20,9:40
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3 SYRIANA MTRCB R-13 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3 MTRCB R-13 2:15, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15
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SM CITY STA. MESA
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11 SAW 2
12 SYRIANA
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
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8 NEW WORLD
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 FIREWALL
12 SYRIANA
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
4 SYRIANA
5 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
6 CLOSE TO YOU

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 PINK PANTHER
5 NEW WORLD
6 CLOSE TO YOU
SM CITY BACOOR
1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5 AEON FLUX
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 THE MAID
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 GOAL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 BLOODRAYNE
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1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 THE MAID
4 WALK THE LINE
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1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER
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4 CLOSE TO YOU
SM CITY MARILAO
1 FIREWALL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FIREWALL
2 NEW WORLD
3 GOAL
4 CLOSE TO YOU

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 FIREWALL
2 MEMORIES OF GEISHA
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Young dad Jolo Revilla 'free' but not carefree

IS IT TRUE THAT A PRETTY CORRESPONdent of ABS-CBN in General Santos was sacked when news leaked that she has a love child by Manny Pacquiao? Since Pacman is a "Kapamilya," perhaps the network just wanted to do some damage control. After Joanna Rose Bacosa came out in the open about having another Pacquiao baby, will the news reporter make an expose, too? Are there any more out there? If this were a boxing match, I wonder how many more rounds before Manny gets knocked out and shouts, "I didn't knock her up!"

Guess list

•Guess who this gaunt TV host/actress is.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

She's so pissed at her former workmate (a model turned TV personality) for squealing on her. She lost rackets/gigs when word got around that she's hooked on drugs. The actress also knows a lot of her former co-star's dark secrets. Will she retaliate and spill the beans, too?

•Guess who this wife of a sportsman/actor is. While she was shopping on Rodeo Drive, the saleslady of a ritzy boutique was flabbergasted when she demanded, "I want to buy the original bag!" Maybe she forgot that she was in Beverly Hills, not Greenhills.

Dad Jolo

I cornered my "godbrother" Jolo Revilla and asked if it's true that he's courting Pauleen Luna.

IC with his tarpaulin and birthday cake.

He clarified, "No, I'm not. I like her [but] I'm not ready for another commitment. I'd rather focus on my son, Gab. Grace and I are both free."

He's free but not carefree because he doesn't take his fatherly duties lightly. Jolo is relieved that his relationship with Grace's mom, Rosanna Roces, is no longer strained "I get to visit Gab once a week. Tita Osang is around when I go there—no more tension. I take Gab to the mall sometimes. I bring him monthly to the pedia for his checkup. Hopefully someday soon, *mahihiram ko rin siya at maiuuwi sa bahay namin* even for a few days."

The young dad proudly adds "My son can walk and talk already! His first word was Dada." Will he allow Gab to do TV commercials like other celebrity kids? Jolo smiled, "It's all up to her Lola Osang."

My debutant

I didn't have a grand party for my debut. But when it was my *dalagita* IC's turn, I made sure he celebrated in style. His fab bash was also a celebration of his show biz comeback. Allow me to thank special friends who made the occasion unforgettable.

Thanks, more than kisses can say, to Loy and Tati Fortuna and the efficient staff of Watering Hole for giving IC and me a refuge (this is where IC told me he was gay!); the fun Oro Entertainment group, especially Vic Veluz, Robert Espinosa, Domeng Almoet and Elmo Nilo for the wild jungle décor and for being IC's "fairy *gaymothers*"; Georgia Apostol for the gigantic stuff toys; Ria of Repertory Phils. for lending us the backdrop and props; Richard and Roni Merck for the

YOUNG/ A2-5

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4	I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00	5	SYRIANA 12:05 / 2:55 / 5:45 / 8:35		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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RP-Japan concert

A FREE pop-rock concert, "One Love, One Day, One Life," will be culminating event for the 50th anniversary celebration of Japanese-Filipino friendship.

SHOW TIME

Set at the Shangri-La Plaza Streetscape tomorrow, 9 p.m., the concert features the popular Japanese trio Core of Soul, and Filipino singers Barbie Almalbis, Kitchie Nadal and Hale.

Jay-R everywhere

JAY-R and Shaina Magdayao will be at the Glorietta Activity Center at 3 p.m. tomorrow for the launch of Colgate's P1 Million Shopping Spree promo.

In the evening, Jay-R will perform at Klownz in Angeles, Pampanga.

PBB auditions

THE PINOY Big Brother Teen Edition is holding nationwide auditions.

Teeners aged 16 to 18 from Cebu and nearby provinces can audition today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the SM Cebu Entertainment Center.

Bring photocopy of birth certificate, bio-data and full-body and close-up pictures. Call 415-2272 for details.

With Chester Nollado, an 'Ilusyonada' co-star.

DOLLYWOOD...

From page A2-4

yummy cake (and most of all for looking out for IC and me); Claire de la Fuente for the *lechon* with *sarsa* like no other; the ultra cool Blue Tooth band who livened up the party; IC's and my fave photog, Jay Javier for the great pix; Cesar and Sunshine Montano, Alessandra de Rossi and Jeremy Marquez, Nyoy Volante and Nina, Polo Ravales, Say Alonzo, Inday Garutay, Jackie Forster, Rey Pumaloy, Liza Endaya, Benjie Felipe and Medwin Marfil of True Faith for squeezing IC's debut into their hectic scheds. Endless thanks too to my family, and IC's and my non-show biz friends for keeping us grounded. Happy 18th, my dearest Ice! If I could choose to be anything in this world I'd still choose to be your mom.

Nora Aunor Day

During Nora Aunor Day at the Gateway in Araneta Center tomorrow—hosted by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Mowelfund Film Institute, the International Circle of Online Noranians, Grand Alliance for Nora Aunor Philippines and the Federation of Nora Aunor followers, Inc.—the first ICON awards will be held. Honorees are Perla Bautista, Marissa Delgado, Anita Linda, Bella Flores, Caridad Sanchez and Gloria Sevilla. At the lobby, there will be a one-day exhibit entitled "Nora Aunor: World Cinema Actress." My apologies to Lotlot and the Noranians. They invited me to host the "Gabi ng Parangal" but something came up. I would have loved to be there to pay tribute to the Superstar who saw me grow up. One of my most vivid childhood memories is waking up in the middle of the night and seeing Ate Guy and my mom having a long and serious talk. They were soul sisters.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

DID YOU KNOW...

'Zamboanga' on ABC 5

"ZAMBOANGA," the 1937 film starring **Fernando Poe Sr.** and **Rosa del Rosario**, will premiere on ABC 5's ABCinema tomorrow at 10 p.m. It is the first time that the movie, earlier believed lost, will be seen on local television.

Directed by **Eduardo de Castro**, the movie was "re-discovered" by Mowelfund Film Institute director **Nick Deocampo** in the United States.

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CINEMA 4 BIG MOMMAS HOUSE 2 10:40, 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GP
CINEMA 5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA 10:40, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:10 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
MARCH 3, 2006 JESSA & DINGDONG AVANSADO 9:00PM
MARCH 4, 2006 VINA M., RACHEL A., GENEVA C. 9:00PM
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PROMENADE GREENHILLS
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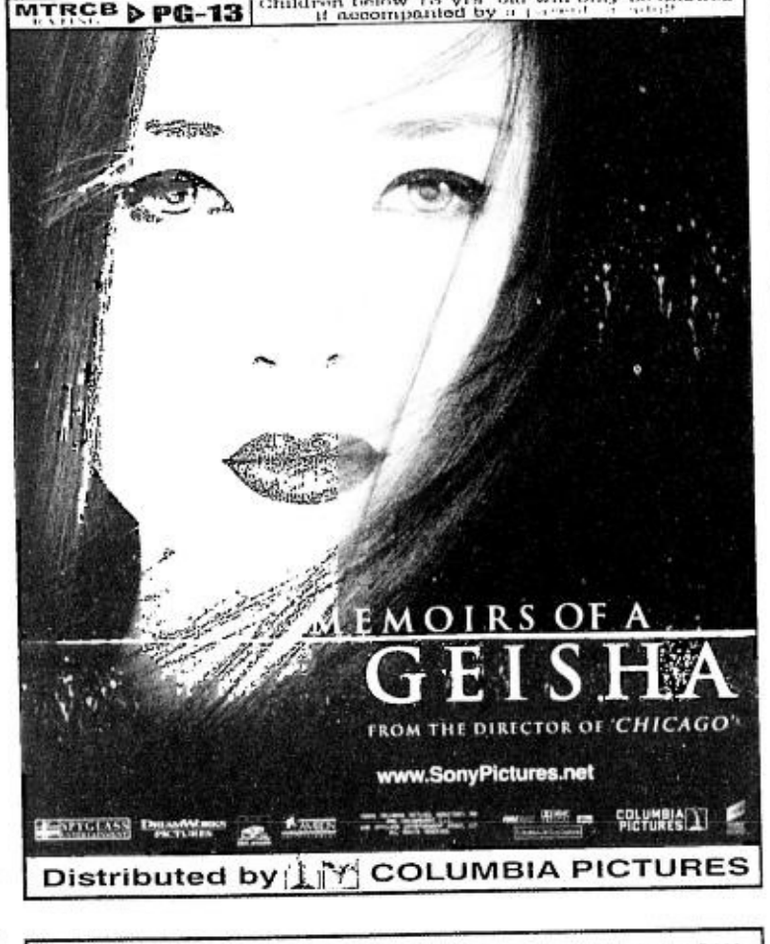

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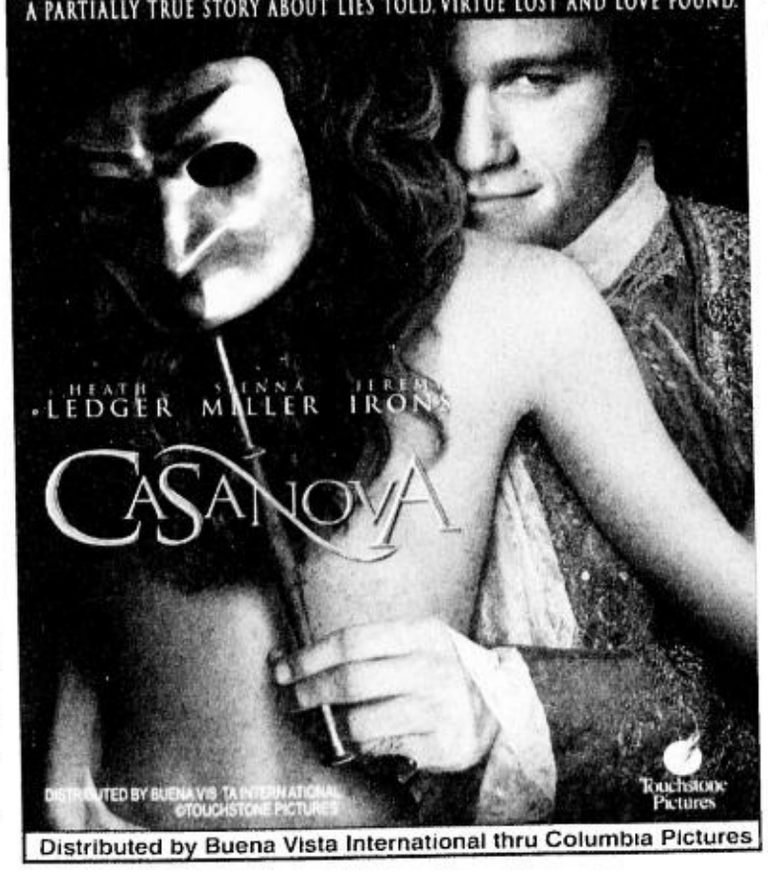

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2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 GP
3 (DOLBY) SYRIANA R13
4 (DOLBY) FINAL DESTINATION R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) PINK PANTHER GP

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2 (SDDS) SYRIANA
3 (DTS) PINK PANTHER
4 GOLD (DTS) BIG MOMMAS HOUSE-2
5 GOLD (DOLBY) FINAL DESTINATION-3
6 GOLD (SDDS) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
8 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) MGA BATANG BANGKETA
9 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLOSE TO YOU
10 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

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3 (DOLBY) SYRIANA
4 (DOLBY) FINAL DESTINATION 3

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
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2 MEMOIRS OF A GESIHA -(PG-13)
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 - (GP)
4 CLOSE TO YOU - (GP)

Blue Wave
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2 (DOLBY) BIG MOMMAS HOUSE-2
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
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4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN-2

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4 CLOSE TO YOU

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2 CLOSE TO YOU
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1 FUN W/ DICK & JANE
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3 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2
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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
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Center Mall Cinema
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1 MEMOIRS OF A GESIHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY DS) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 UNDERWORLD
3 (DTS EX) CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
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2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD
4 (DTS) SAW-2

Centre Plaza Cinema
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2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN-2

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SAW-2
2 THE NEW WORLD

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (DTS) KIROT
2 PILYA
3 UNFINISHED LIFE
4 (DTS) SAW-2

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SAW-2
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 THE MAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 GOAL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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FEEDBACK

EMILY Piano Möller (moller_emily@hotmail.com), of Tullaregatan 8, 252 67 Helsinborg, Sweden, would like to coordinate with a producer of old Filipino films that can be shown on Swedish TV.

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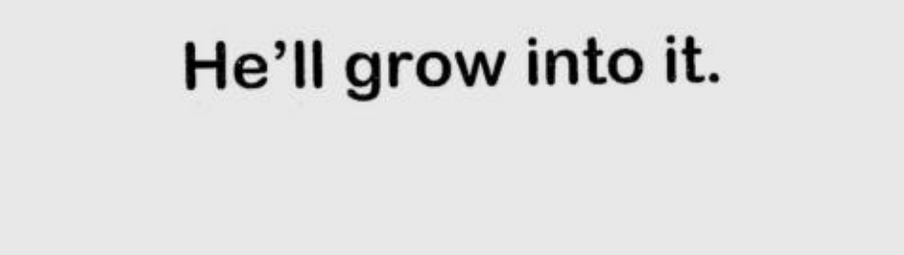
He'll grow into it.



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Cory's kingdom /B3

BSP sees more robust, competitive banking sector /B8

BUSINESS

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

IRA-backed bonds up for sale

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT IS SET TO SELL BONDS backed by up to P17.5 billion worth of internal revenue allotment yet to be paid to local government units.

Proceeds of the sale will cover payment shortfalls due to budget constraints in 2000 and 2001.

State lenders Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines, the underwriters for a similar fund-raising scheme undertaken in 2002, were again mandated to auction off investment certificates backed by LGU receivables.

The LGU internal revenue allotment monetization program (IMP) involves the securitization—or borrowing against a pool of assets—of LGU receivables for fiscal year 2000 and 2001. The program is meant to free funds for cities and municipalities ahead of programmed releases.

"Under the program, LGUs have the option to monetize in advance, through a special purpose trust, their respective shares from the unreleased IRA at a dis-

IRA-BACKED/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.66 = $1

¥117.66 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 23, 2006

GOLD: $551.70-552.20

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 23, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares end up 1.13%

SHARE PRICES YESterday closed 1.13 percent higher as investors looked for bargains after three days of losses, dealers said.

The composite index added 23.44 points to 2,091.32, the day's high, off an intra-day low of

SHARES/ B3

CHECK OUT THE VOLVO CARS ON DISPLAY AT THE NORTH COURT, ROCKWELL POWER PLANT MALL FROM FEB. 24-26, 2006.

MYTH #1
AREN'T ALL CARS AS SAFE AS A VOLVO THESE DAYS?

Sadly, no. Although – strange as it might sound – we've tried to make sure they are. For example, when Volvo invented the three point seat belt in 1959 we decided not to patent it so all manufacturers could use it — and save even more lives. (we did the same thing when we invented the catalytic converter in 1976, incidentally. No patent.)

Because when it comes to safety, we're utterly committed to going the extra mile. That's why we build all our cars to safety

MYTH #2
A VOLVO'S NATURAL HABITAT IS THE SLOW LANE

Or at the very most, the middle lane. But put your foot down in a Volvo these days and you'll find that myth disappears as fast as the cars in your rear-view mirror.

After all, Volvo was winning British Touring Car Championships when the competition was still sitting on their dads' shoulders in the stands. And we've carried that love of flat-out thrills into our production cars.

MYTH #3
OK, BUT AREN'T VOLVO FANS IN THE MINORITY?

Ah, you'd be surprised. In the past few years, it's been Volvo that's been getting the motoring press hot under the collar, not the marques you'd expect. In the words of an international motoring correspondent, 'these day Volvos are cool cars to be seen in'.

Even certain, more notoriously hard to please motoring journalists have been bowled over 'it must be the sheer brutality of the thing that made it head and shoulders above our favorites. Influenced by the strong kick in the solar plexus, we truly felt that if power and excitement is what you want, this is what you need.'

So if you've ever felt [illegible] feelings

MYTH #4
VOLVO CARS ARE SLEEK AND STYLISH.

OK, NOW THIS MYTH IS TRUE AND WE TOTALLY AGREE.

Take a look at our current car range and we're sure you'll agree we're definitely sexy and curvy fluid lines, seductive curves, elegant profiles you'll find them all over our 2006 range.

Step inside a Volvo and you'll be greeted with nothing but exquisite refinement. Drive one and you are guaranteed of nothing less than the finest driving experience.

But don't take our word for it. The best way to really see how far we've come is to go to our showrooms and get behind the wheel yourself. So if you like what you read so far the best is yet to come.

2006 VOLVO XC90 T6

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Gov't eyes new privatization tack

Consolidation, listing of state-owned power assets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID IT was considering a proposal calling for the consolidation of state power assets into one company and listing it on the stock market.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the proposal, which came from Representative Joey Salceda, was "attractive" and that the DOF would study the legal issues concerning it.

"We have to make sure first what the law says. If it (the proposal) is within the boundaries of the law, then we can push for it," Teves told reporters in a press briefing.

He said the DOF was now waiting for a formal copy of the proposal.

Salceda, who represents Albay and serves as economic adviser to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, said the government should consider another way of selling its power assets to cut the delays in the privatization program.

Under his proposal, National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) will be consolidated into the so-called Philippine Power Transmission and Generation Corp., and the shares of the new company would be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

Salceda said the government could initially sell 60 percent to the public and hold on to the remaining 40-percent stake to allow it to manage the firm during the initial years of operations.

Should the government fail to achieve the target of selling publicly the entire 60 percent, then it could look for strategic partners who would buy the unsold portion of the 60 percent.

Salceda said the government could sell its remaining 40-percent stake later and let the new majority owner take charge of the firm's management.

Salceda said the proposal already got a favorable response from officials of Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the one in charge of managing and privatizing the government's power assets.

He said PSALM was ready to make a formal proposal to the Joint Congressional Power Committee (JCPC), a unit of Congress that oversees the privatization of the government's power assets.

Salceda said the privatization plan for the power sector should be given due attention since it was partly to blame for the government's fiscal problem. He noted that the government had spent some P225 billion in the last five years to pay Napocor debts.

NDC to float ₱10B worth of bonds

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-OWNED NATIONAL Development Co. is set to float the first tranche of a planned P20-billion bond offering in March, possibly with a government guarantee, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila said.

Favila yesterday said the first of the two tranches was expected to raise P10 billion but the size could be decreased "depending on the numbers that are coming in."

"The Department of Finance has expressed willingness to provide sovereign guarantee," he said.

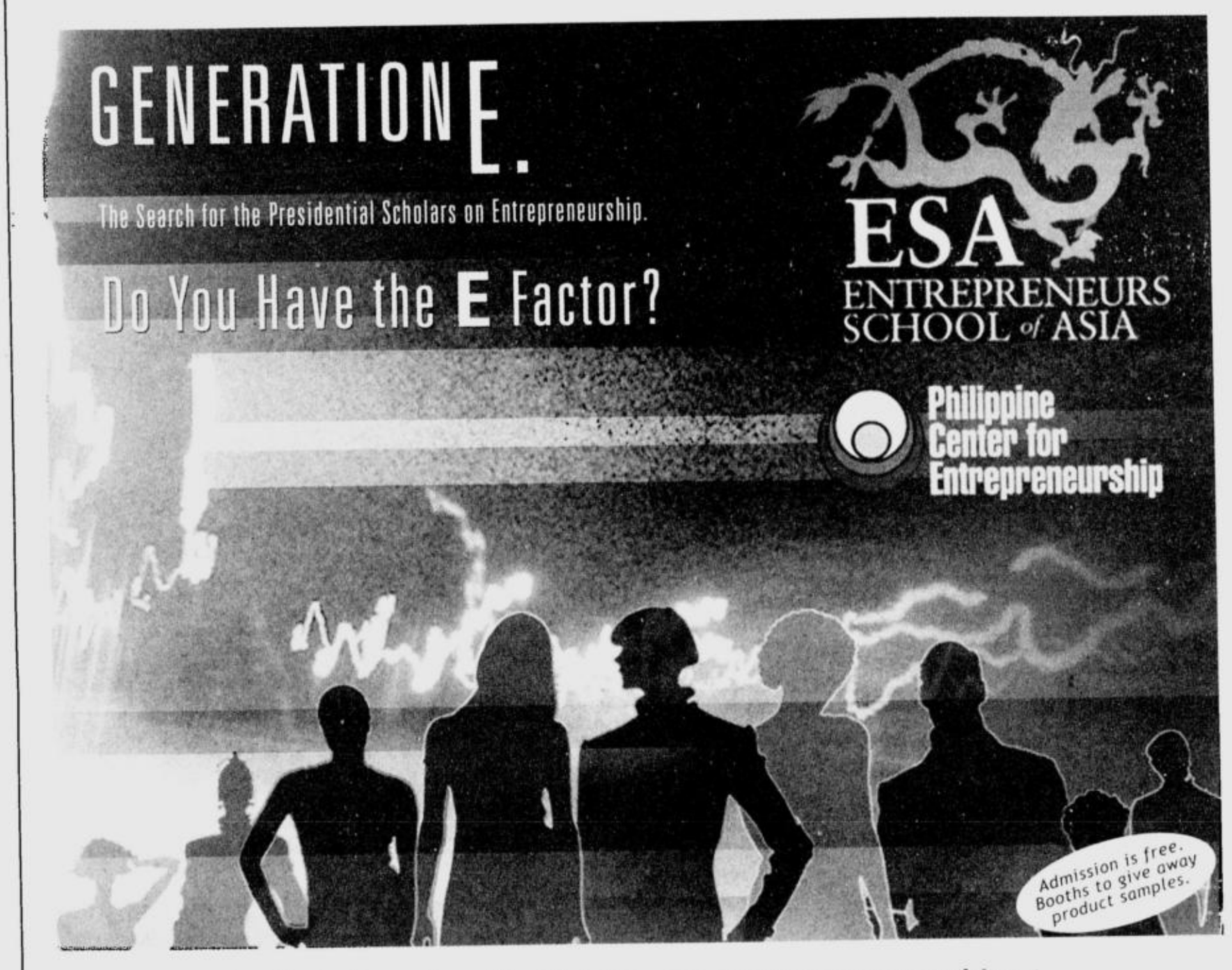
The trade chief, who serves as NDC chair, said government financial institutions and major banks would take part in the flotation.

Landbank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines have been tapped as underwriters.

He said proceeds from the float would be used to pump prime the economy through infrastructure, health and agriculture projects.

Favila said the domestic borrowing was meant to augment the government's budgetary savings of P35 billion from last year.

In an earlier interview, he said the government was looking at spending in the first quarter some P15 billion out of the P35 billion it "saved" this year to pump prime the economy.



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February 24, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies • Host: Johnny Litton • Tessa Prieto-Valdes • Cutting of Ribbon• Sen.Manuel Villar • Sen. Manuel Roxas II • Sen. Francis Pangilinan • Cong. Wilhelmino Alvarado • Mayor Rosendo Capco • Mayor Freddie Tinga • Aurelio Montinola III • Government Officials • Partner Organizations • Lucy Torres-Gomez • Viewing of Exhibit • Opening Program • Feng Shui Master Charlie Chao's Business Outlook for 2006 • DZMM RADYO NEGOSYO sa Market! Market! with Carl Balita & Anna Marie Periquet • "Elevator Pitch" Exhibition by Business Plan Contest Winners & Runners-up • Awarding of PCE-ENEDA Cup Winners • MOA Signing - SERDEF and the Philippine Internet Commerce Society • Safeguarding and Optimizing Your Intellectual Capital - By: Intellectual Property Office • GO NEGOSYO Concert with Orange and Lemons & Up Dharma Down Band at the Central Plaza, Market! Market! • Seminar Room 1 - International Workshop on Technopreneurship By: Prof. Patrick Chan - Host: DOST • Seminar Room 2 - Easy Tips on How to Start a Retail Business and How to Supply to Retailers By: Steven T. Cua • Easy on the pocket Business Ideas By: Food Cart Association of the Philippines

February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Franchise Boom: Now is the Time to Get Started - By: Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. • The Entrepreneur: Know Thyself - By: Lex Ledesma • Talk: Jeff Van Ruyven • Finding Your Opportunity of a Lifetime: Where do Entrepreneurs Get Their Ideas - By: Jay Bernardo • Moving Innovations to Market - By: Maoi Arroyo • The Essentials of a Successful Business Start-up - By: Joel Santos • FORUM: Financing Programs that Work - Moderator: Mau Bolante - Panelists: National Livelihood Support Fund, Personal Bank Loan Providers, ABS-CBN Bayan Microfinance Foundation, Pawnshops, Cooperatives • Seminar Room 1 - International Workshop on Technopreneurship By: Prof. Patrick Chan, Host: DOST • Seminar Room 2 - Franchise Your Businesss: An Option for Growth - By: Philippine Franchise Association • Demystifying the Stock Market - By: Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)

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February 25, 2006 - Mentoring sessions

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** Joey Concepcion and Anna Marie Periquet will join various time slots*

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BTr raises bond offerings for March by ₱8B

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY HAS INcreased its bond offerings for March by P8 billion.

The Treasury said in a memo to government securities eligible dealers (GSEDS), composed mostly of banks, that the bond offering volume of P6 billion for March would be raised to P14 billion.

The size of the 5-year bonds scheduled for auction next month was doubled to P4 billion, while the 7-year bonds flotation was raised to P8 billion from P2 billion.

But National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the move, which was in line with the Treasury's debt consolidation program that started last Feb. 10, would not result in an increase in the government's total borrowing program of P75 billion for the entire first quarter.

Cruz explained that the increase in the volume of bond offerings for March would only compensate for the cancellation of the scheduled bond auctions in February.

Cruz said the auctions for 5- and 7-year bonds programmed for February were canceled. The government was programmed to raise P8 billion from the supposed bond auctions, P4 billion for each tenor.

Under the debt consolidation program, holders of old 3-, 5- and 7-year bonds who want to extend the period of their investments may exchange their holdings government securities for freshly issued bonds of the same tenors. The swap would allow the government to extend the average maturity of its domestic debt by one year. *Michelle V. Remo*

PSALM slashes manpower costs

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILIties Management Corp. (PSALM) has reduced its "manpower and related costs" by adopting the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS).

In a statement, PSALM financial services department manager Cesar Ramirez said using the BIR's online tax filing and payment mechanism had freed up a number of PSALM personnel to do other tasks even during tax-filing periods.

He said that during tax seasons, PSALM had to assign a number of employees to work full time in processing the government agency's various taxes to be able to meet deadlines.

"With the eFPS, these employees can now be assigned other tasks aside from their main responsibility. Thus, their efficiency is developed, and we don't need to hire new employees to do their job," he said.

He added that PSALM's use of the eFPS significantly slashed the processing cost of tax returns and payments, such as the costs involved in receiving, pre-processing, encoding, error handling and storage.

He said the system provided safety nets and check-and-balance measures "to ensure dependable and accurate transactions." *Abigail L. Ho*

CebuPac posted slight loss in '05

HIGH PETROLEUM PRICES HAVE EATEN INTO the operating margins of Cebu Pacific Air Inc., causing it to post a net loss in 2005, despite rising passenger traffic and higher load factors.

"We operated at a slight loss due to higher fuel prices," company president Lance Gokongwei said on Wednesday.

Cebu Pacific's financial condition mirrors that of its main rival, Philippine Airlines, and most other major carriers worldwide, which continue to report losses due to the surge in the price of aviation fuel.

For the first three quarters of 2005, Cebu Pacific reported a net loss of P77.3 million, reversing a P418.4-million profit during the same period in the previous year.

Gokongwei declined to reveal other details on the 2005 performance but added that the firm would likely break even this year.

He said higher earnings in 2006 would be prompted by higher passenger traffic due to its new advanced booking scheme, which offered passengers substantial discounts. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Cory's kingdom

THE RULING ELITE ACTS LIKE feudal landlords, controlling everything from the local economy, local politics, the police, even—we are not kidding—janitorial services.

Pre-martial law Philippines? Sorry, but we are referring to the present-day Hacienda Luisita and Central de Azucarera de Tarlac complex, the private fiefdom of the Cojuangcos, whose most famous daughter is the poster girl of the Makati Business Club for governance.

CAT—the sugar refinery affiliate of, and located within, the strife-torn Hacienda Luisita—happens to be a publicly listed company whose limited disclosures nevertheless provide a glimpse of the clannish backscratching prevalent among private and family-controlled companies.

But then, what's wrong with integrating businesses and farming out related services under one family empire?

Though it makes economic sense, the problem with this incestuous arrangement is that the publicly listed refinery has other non-family shareholders who are left out in these rent-seeking arrangement.

Worse, the publicly listed refinery awards contracts without competitive public bidding to private companies solely owned by the Cojuangco clan, whose officers also happen to sit on the CAT board.

Thus, the publicly listed refinery chaired by Pedro Cojuangco, the eldest brother of Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino, hands out a 3.5 percent commission for every alcohol sale, and another 10 percent commission for every carbon dioxide sale, made by Tarlac Distillery Corp.

The chair/president of Tarlac Distillery? Jose Cojuangco Jr., younger brother of Pedro, who also is a CAT director and vice president.

The arrangement continues with the Luisita Marketing Corp., which receives a one percent commission on sugar trading and tolling fee from the refinery.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Luisita Marketing's president? Jose Cojuangco Jr. Even better, the clan's holding company, Jose Cojuangco and Sons Inc., still runs a management contract, a holdover from the protectionist era, for the refinery.

For this privilege, Jose Cojuangco and Sons receives an undisclosed fixed management fee and a percentage of the net profit of the refinery, on top—again, we kid you not—of the 5-percent share of the refinery's net profit that the CAT board members themselves receive.

In other words, members of the Cojuangco clan not only get a cut in the company profits, they also get a cut in the company operations, and another cut in the related services farmed out by themselves to themselves.

How do the Cojuangcos treat these *abrazo* arrangements?

"The Company (meaning, the Central de Azucarera de Tarlac), and the foregoing related parties, except directors and officers, have common shareholders," CAT declared in its 2005 annual report audited, as it has been so in the last two decades, by SGV.

The CAT declaration, to use polite legalese, represents material misrepresentation.

Money-go-round

• EXACTLY 78.8 percent of an affiliated company of the Po family's Century Canning Corp., Alliance Tuna International, has been 78.8-percent acquired by a Thai company for P230 million.

• LBC Bank owner Carlos Araneta is being ordered by a Delaware chancery court to appear on the Aug. 28-30 trial dates in connection with a damage suit filed by the ATR-Kim Eng Group.

Heard through the grapevine

FORBES Park resident Jose Teofilo Mercado and his lawyer Jose Villanueva were fined P50,000 each by the Supreme Court for having written and falsely accusing then Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. of exerting "tremendous pressure" on *ponente* Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, whose decision upheld Security Bank's foreclosure and sale of Mercado's other Forbes property.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com)

IRA-backed bonds . . . From page B1

counted value," Landbank president Gilda Pico yesterday said.

Under Executive Order 494, the LGUs are each allotted a share in the unprogrammed IRA worth P17.5 billion. They will receive their share on an installment basis over a period of seven years—from 2007 to 2013.

In 2002, the government sold P5.5 billion worth of bonds from a similar IRA securitization deal through a special purpose trust formed by the DBP and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap). The institutions, in turn, bid out the investment certificates to investors.

Although the nominal issuer was the special purpose trust, the borrowings were acknowledged as a direct, absolute and unconditional obligation of the national government, as provided in a letter of confirmation issued by the Department of Finance.

Shares end up 1.13%

From page B1

2,067.88. Turnover was 868.55 million shares worth P1.25 billion ($24.12 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 13.02 points to 1,009.46.

Gainers outnumbered losers 49 to 33, with 51 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 51.83 to the dollar at midday. *AFP*

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Feb. 21, 2006 / Last Week Feb. 14, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.39140 / 1.38183
Managed Fund - Peso	1.50454 / 1.49575
Growth Fund - Peso	1.13418 / 1.13209
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2372 / 1.2395

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php) Feb. 20, 2006	Feb. 13, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.128990	1.119913
Balanced Fund	1.113487	1.106224
Equity Fund	1.079227	1.076151

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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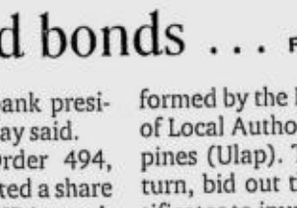

ISABEL "BILLY" R. MOLINA has a pending case for ESTAFA before Pasay Regional Trial Court, Branch 117 with Criminal Case No. 05-1879-CFM.

A Warrant of Arrest has been issued against her.

Any Information regarding her whereabouts can be communicated to the Police or Telephone Nos. 524-7641 to 44/524-5555.

(PDI–Feb 24, 2006)

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
Basement MWSI Bldg., MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Tel Nos 435-3366, 920-5521 loc 3600 3615, 3616

INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested Suppliers to pre-qualify and participate in the scheduled e-Bid for the supply and delivery of the following item:

Quantity	Description
1,205 Drums	CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE, Ca (Ocl)2 (AWWA B-300-92)
As per MWSI Technical Specifications & Bid Terms & Condition	

Interested bidders may, beginning February 27, 2006 until March 3, 2006 and upon payment of the non-refundable participating fee of Two Thousand Pesos Only (P2,000.00), obtain further information and secure a complete set of pre-qualification forms and bid terms and condition (bid documents) from Purchasing Department, Basement, MWSI Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.Telephone Nos. 435-3366/435-3374, Fax No 928-2303. Payment may be in the form of Cash or Manager's Check addressed to Maynilad Water Services, Inc.

MWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive and all informalities therein and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) LUIS M. Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept

(PDI - Feb 21 & 24 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www. peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING FIXTURES FOR PEZA BUILDING

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 2,035,700.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fluorescent Lighting System for PEZA Building. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of labor and materials (new lighting fixtures including energy saving fluorescent lamp and electronic ballast) technical supervision, technical expertise, consumables and tools for 458 sets of Troffer type recess mounted fluorescent lighting fixtures. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be inspected and/or purchased by interested Bidders from 27 February to 10 March 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP 2,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their GEPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 16 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 29 March 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than 1% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 29 March 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza.bac.secretariat@yahoo.com
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(PDI–Feb. 24 & March 3, 2006)

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Via Firenze: Dressing the rich for 20 years

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AS THE TANKS WERE ROLLING along the side streets of Edsa 20 years ago during the peaceful People Power Revolution, Judith Pajaro was busy with renovations of her newly-bought home in New Manila and putting final touches to gowns.

Yes, despite political upheavals, people still get married, she points out.

Judith owns Via Firenze (Florence way), a haute coutour shop in Glorieta that turned 20 years old last May.

She says she recalls that as workers were hammering in her house, she could hear the helicopters flying into Camp Aguinaldo.

Judith was a small town girl from Zamboanga del Norte. As early as she could remember she had always been fascinated with dressmaking and recalls hanging out for hours in the neighborhood dress shop. She would ask for the retazos or left-over pieces of cloth and play with these. She would watch her mother embroider on their house clothes.

But becoming a dressmaker was not an option for a family like theirs, she says. So she studied banking and finance at St. Paul College in Dumaguete and worked briefly for an insurance firm. Her love for making clothes however remained so she studied fashion at the Slim's Institute of Fashion.

She met a man who co-owned a shoe shop at the then Quad commercial center (now Glorietta). Judith asked for a small space to sell RTWs made of linen. It did well and she convinced the man, who later became her husband, to sell his shares in the boutique so they can go on their own.

They used the proceeds to buy the New Manila house at a time when real estate prices were rock bottom in Manila. She used the property to set up her residence and atelier. She also opened a shop in Quad for her linen clothes and named this Via Firenze.

Early in her foray into clothes, Judith noticed that it was the rich who were buying her linen line. One day she tested the waters for wedding gowns.She did well and this became the rationale for opening an atelier in her home.

More than 20 years in the clothes business is no small feat particularly since she entered the business at a time when RTWs or ready to wear clothes was the rage.

CORPORATE EDSA BABIES

Despite the economic crisis of the early 80s characterized by events leading to the Edsa I People Power revolution, the failed coup attempts that characterized the administration of then President Corazon Aquino, the Asian crisis, the current political turmoil, Judith says her sales have not been affected by the political and economic upheavals.

Which is why even at the height of the Edsa revolution she had orders to serve.

Somehow she has a big clientele among the wives of military personnel. Word of mouth was how she got clients. Judith does over 100 gowns a month and during the peak months of October to December she does over 200.

She has dressed four generations of some families—from the grandmother to the grandaughter. From weddings gowns to ball gowns, Judith has dressed thousands of women the past 20 years.

Asked to summarize her staying power, Judith says, "My market is the rich; my clients are comfortable with me—I give them what they want although I also tell them if a style will not suit them. And they are happy with the product."

When she started, Judith had two sewing machines and two sewers. She did the cutting and the ironing; her husband would deliver the gowns.

Today she has a staff of 28 made up of ten sewers, 12 beaders, cutters. She provides some of her people free board and lodging.

Ironically her dream is to have a one-woman fashion show. She has done mini-shows or joined others but never a solo show. The problem she says is she does not have the time to make gowns for a show as her staff is focused on filling the orders.

Even after 20 years in the business, Judith puts in 15 hour workdays, starting at 10 in the morning to one in the morning.

She has clients who buy her gowns in bulk and sell it abroad—to as far as Norway and Hawaii. Balikbayans are among her clients. She says she has an account with UPS and DHL for the delivery of these gowns.

As to when she will stop, she quips she still has a daughter in first year high school who has dreams of studying fashion abroad. And a son who wants to take his Master's out of the country.

That, she says, will cost money.

Malagos: More than just an orchid garden

By Germelina Lacorte
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—FROM A 600-SQUARE METER garden that his mother, Charita Puentespina, used to lease beside his father's office in Agdao, the Puentespina orchid farm has grown over the years to include a mountain resort and has created a name as a major player in the country's cutflower business.

But a couple of years before the first Edsa uprising, Angel Puentespina, general manager of the Malagos Orchid Garden Resort, recalls the family wanted to relocate their business to Manila.

Those were the dark years in Davao city, which earned the tag as "killing fields," when it became a raging battleground between the "sparrow unit" of the communist New People's Army (NPA) and the police.

"People then were put in the middle," recalls Puentespina, who was still studying at the UP Los Banos.

But Edsa People Power came and after a few years, the situation seemed to have stabilized.

Now, the new investments that are pouring in the city mainly come from local capital, which reflects business confidence, says Roberto Teo, head of the Davao city Investment Promotion Center (DCIPC) in a separate interview.

Teo points that this is a contrast from the past when the uncertainty pushed people with capital to pack up and leave the country and keep their money elsewhere.

"Now, they feel secure. They're using their money to build buildings," he tells the INQUIRER.

For the Puentespinas, who started small in the late 1970s, it was during the years after the Edsa revolution that the company grew.

"At that time, it was just a case of coming up with the products and putting it in the market," says Puentespina. "We got into the business and we pioneered," he says.

In 1985, Charita Puentespina was the first to successfully culture the "endangered" orchid waling-waling found only in the forests of Mt. Apo, that was fast disappearing because of forest degradation. Her waling-waling won the Best in Show Award during the Ruby Anniversary Exhibition of the Philippine Orchid Society.

In the '90s, the Puentespina's business expanded. Prior to the 1997 Asian crisis, Puentespina says the banking institutions were awash with cash and were very supportive of business endeavors. Briefly, they went into exports and stopped for a while when they saw a more lucrative demand in the local market. But in 2002, they resumed cutflower exports to Japan.

He attributed part of that success to the environment that the government provided for business to thrive.

"The business got all the attention because it pioneered and when it got good attention, it got good promotion, somehow," he says.

But it was also the creative spirit in the family that allowed the business to thrive. From the cutflower business that the family matriarch started, the business eventually expanded to include a sprawling 12-hectare mountain resort, which is actually a showcase of gardens and plants in Malagos.

The Malagos Garden Resort, which opened in 1995, features an interactive bird show with different bird species from macaws, hornbills, raptors and crows, bird park and feeding dome, a waling-waling forest, an orchid farm, a petting zoo and the sculptures of the National Artist Napoleon Abueva, tucked into different nooks and groves of the resort.

In 2001, it opened one of the first butterfly sanctuaries in the country.

Since tourism is not yet very rosy, the family business is constantly looking for ways to be efficient. To save on costs, they ventured to develop new products—such as soap and virgin coconut oil—and experimented on making wine from Bignay tree, a species indigenous in the Philippines.

It came as a surprise that more people liked it and came to ask for it.

"People who look at us would say, these guys must be crazy," says Puentespina, adding that their kind of business is not the kind that turns money very quickly.

It takes time to nurture nature, he says.

"No one else is breeding indigenous plant materials as a protection for the future. In a very subtle way, we are promoting biodiversity and we're saving the environment," he adds.

Business outlook has totally changed 20 years after Edsa.

Puentespina said that with the entry of budget airlines in the city, he expects tourism to pick up.

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Challenge #3: Mastering the Keys to Achieving Your Goals. Top PLDT and Smart executive and movie producer Butch Jimenez* shares how he sets and achieves his goals with his team. * invited

Challenge #4: Leading Through Adversity with Integrity. Sandy Prieto, CEO of The Philippine Daily Inquirer, shares the challenges of being 'bullied' by political powers that threatened to close their business and shares how to get through challenges.

Challenge #5: Discovering the Servant Leader Within. Be inspired with one of UK's youngest millionaire entrepreneurs and now Gawad Kalinga's benefactor, Dylan Wilk, as he shows the strengths he sees in Filipinos and how they can be maximized to turn around the lives of Filipinos and of the country.

Challenge #6. Attitude Adjustments-Going from 'Pwede Na!' to Excellence Rex Resureccion, best-selling author of "Called to Excel" will challenge participants to rise from the mediocre, pwede-na attitude to an attitude of excellence.

Challenge #7. Life Balance. As a closing session, Francis Kong concludes the seminar by imparting success keys to meet the challenge of multi-tasking, leading our families harmoniously, and making sure we don't miss out on the most important things in life - our relationships.

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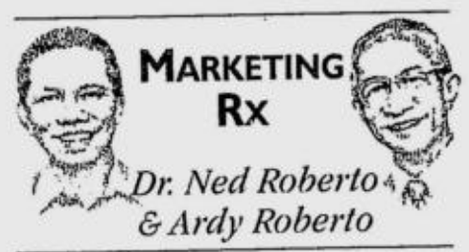


HERE'S A SHORT LIST OF OUR RECOMmended books as seen on the shelves of Powerbooks in Greenbelt, Makati.

1. The E-Myth Revisited. Why Most Small Businesses Don't Work and What to Do About it. By Michael Gerber. (P1,297/Harper Collins). This will be an eye-opener for many of our readers who are small business owners. Read it if you want to make the transition from being owned by your business (i.e. "self-employed") to being a real "business owner". Gerber was in Singapore to conduct a seminar and will be back in the Lion City this March or April. We'll keep you informed if he does.

2. How to Become a Marketing Superstar. Unexpected Rules that Ring the Cash Register. Jeffrey J. Fox. (P815/Hyperion). If this book does help you become a marketing superstar, please do write to us about it. Just don't get caught reading this while you're in the office, or your boss might think that you're after his job.

3. Rising Tide. Lessons from 165 Years of Brand Building at P&G. Davis Dyer, Frederick Dalzell, Rowena Olegario. (P2,229/Harvard Business School Press). If you want to get a brand management education without working at P&G, this may be the next best thing.

4. The Effective Executive. A Journal for Getting the Right Things Done. Peter Drucker. (P1,209/Harper Collins). The management guru of gurus passed away last November, but his books are still around to 'mentor' you.

5. Asia's Star Brands. Paul Temporal. (P1,379/Wiley). A laundry list of Asian brands-from Osim to LG-that have invaded the modern world and taken away the stigma of being, well, 'Asian.' Temporal also co-wrote The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing in Asia with Jack Trout and Al Ries.

6. Pour Your Heart Into It. How Starbucks Built a Company-One Cup at a Time. Howard Schultz (founder and Chairman of Starbucks) and Dori Jones Yang. (P769/Hyperion). This book was first published in 1997. We've been hearing about it and looking for it ever since. An inspiring read even for the most jaded entrepreneur who still cringes at paying P110 for a tall café latte. Starbucks-whose brand was helped by word-of-mouth and great PR-makes a case for this next recommended book on our list.

7. The Fall of Advertising and The Rise of PR. (Harper Business/about P1,000) Al Ries and Laura Ries. A controversial book that was—or still is—a wake-up call for an advertising industry obsessed with winning creative awards. PR practitioners, of course, love every page of this book.

And now this column segues to our bi-weekly hosting of Al Ries' brand marketing advice.

Q: In your last book, The Fall of Advertising & the Rise of PR, you wrote that advertising forgot its selling characteristic and has focused instead on creativity. Can you explain this?

Al Ries: Over several decades, advertising has gotten more expensive at the same time as there has been a dramatic increase in the volume of advertising. These two factors make advertising less effective (too much volume) and less efficient (too expensive.)

Advertising agencies have responded to this problem by de-emphasizing selling and emphasizing the creativity of the advertising. As long as everyone was aware of a company's advertising what difference did it make if nobody bought the client product, went the thinking. Selling is not our problem, said the advertising industry. Creating awareness by creative advertising is what we are all about.

Advertising has many advantages. You can reach exactly the right people at the right time with the right message as often as you want to reach them.

But advertising has one major problem. Advertising lacks credibility. People just do not believe what they read (or see or hear) in an advertisement. They recognize the fact that advertising is self-serving. What you say about yourself has little or no credibility. Contributing to the credibility problem, of course, is the volume of advertising. Consumers turn off most advertising because there is just too much of it. In many ways advertising is like spam on the Internet. It's not believable because there is too much of it and the messages are self-serving.

Public relations or PR has many disadvantages. You can't control the media, you can't control the timing, and you can't control the message. But it has one major advantage. PR has credibility. Consumers tend to believe what they read in the editorial pages of newspapers and magazines and what they hear on radio and television from independent people. It's what we call "the third party effect." What others say about you has credibility.

PR and advertising can work together. Use PR first to create credibility for the brand. Then use Advertising second to reaffirm and reinforce that credibility.

We recommend that companies launch new brands with PR only. Then when the brand has awareness and credibility in the mind, the company can switch to advertising to maintain the brand.

Our guest columnist, Al Ries, will be in Manila on June 23 to do a one-day marketing conference sponsored by The Inquirer Executive Seminar Series. If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412

GMA 7 revenue seen at ₱9.4B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GMA NETWORK INC. IS EXPECTING ITS 2005 earnings to hit P9.4 billion, higher than year-ago's about P7.8 billion, on the back of increased airtime revenue from its free television, Channel 7.

GMA Network chair Felipe Gozon told reporters at the sidelines of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship's Go Negosyo Summit yesterday that as revenues rose, expenses also swelled due to increased programs, the launch of its second free television channel (QTV) last November and the expansion of its facilities here and abroad.

Gozon, however, declined to reveal the numbers pending the completion of its audited report.

Gozon said that based on the company unaudited financial report, GMA 7 was able to hit its P2-billion profit target. This was 33 percent higher than the P1.5 billion profit in 2004. In 2004, the posted a profit growth of 42 percent.

For 2006, Gozon said GMA7 was looking at a "modest but still double-digit growth" in profit amid increasing expenses related to the company's continuing expansion.

GMA 7 embarked on three major projects last year. These are the overseas expansion, the new programming for Channel 11 dubbed as Quality TV or QTV, and the improvement of GMA 7's presence in major provincial markets.

It has expanded its program distribution to other countries such as the Middle East, and is planning to further expand to Europe, Australia and Hong Kong with new programs.

Despite its growing profitability, Gozon said the network might have to push back its proposed initial public offering from March to May of this year due to delays in the completion of its financial reports.

The plan is to sell 20 percent of the company's outstanding expanded capital. Earlier, sources said GMA 7's plan was to raise between P6 billion and P9 billion for the shareholders and the company. The final size of the offer has yet to be announced.

GMA7 plans to offer Philippine Deposit Receipts (PDRs) to foreign investors through a newly-formed company dubbed GMA Holdings Inc.

As part of the IPO, GMA7 will also issue new and secondary shares.

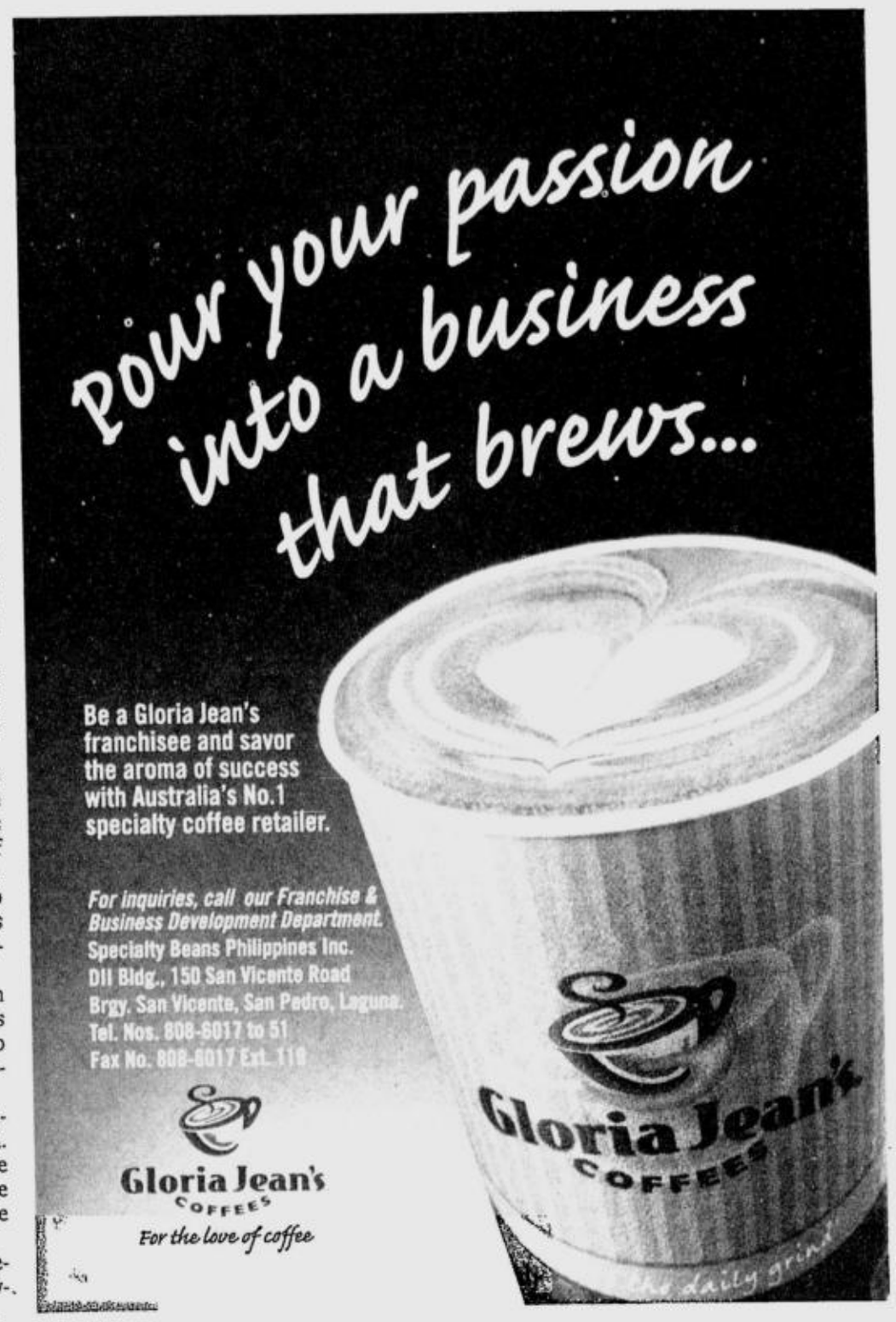
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 23, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	34.5	34	34.5	1,863,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59.5	58.5	59	830,700
China Banking Corp.	630	660	630	645	9,030
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	10,000
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.6	0.64	0.51	0.52	41,210,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	64.5	64.5	63.5	63.5	149,200
International Exch. Bank	23	23.5	23	23.5	35,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	34	32.5	34	2,326,300
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	2,300
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	4,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	39	39	39	39	3,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	6,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3240	3240	3240	3240	1,170
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	147	148	147	148	2,410
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2185	2185	2185	2185	570
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.77	0.79	7,120,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45.5	45.5	45	45	101,300
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41.5	41	41.5	375,000
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	58,500
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	18.75	18.25	18.75	378,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	218,000
Petron Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.6	1,200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.93	530,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20.5	20.5	20	20.25	117,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	35	34	35	203,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	41,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	421,000
San Miguel Corp. A	60	60.5	60	60	137,600
San Miguel Corp. B	79	80	79	80	88,800
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18.25	6,333,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	700,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	970,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	2,885,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	1,136,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3	3	3	3	35,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	40,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	1,400,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	1,710,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	330	335	330	332.5	683,010
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	190,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	123,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	4,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.34	2.36	2.34	2.36	303,000
APC Group Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.97	0.91	0.91	4,790,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.62	25,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	21,000
Bengres Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.95	2,980,000
OMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	397,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	2,319,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	186,000
Medco Holdings	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.25	800,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	8,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	2,470,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	45,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	2,100,000
SM Investments Corp.	217	217	215	215	90,230
South China Resources Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	4,200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	3,170,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	6,604,300
Belle Corp.	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.97	1,390,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	820,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.68	5,954,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	22,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,250,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.24	0.25	2,960,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	3,990,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	6,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	1,442,000
Interport Res.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	5,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,990,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.34	1.38	17,602,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,720,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.25	6,310,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.9	2,759,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	47,100
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	2,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	940,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	835	855	835	855	73,860
Philpino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	554,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1750	1770	1750	1765	130,720
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	2,530,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	60,000
IPVG Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	7,100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.024	0.026	0.023	0.026	252,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	2.04	1.96	2.04	425,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.75	11.75	11.25	11.25	311,500
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	16,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	2,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.76	1,305,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	850,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	118,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	30,000
Paxys Inc	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	116,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	450,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.22	1.22	1.16	1.16	502,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	113,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.1	7.2	6.6	6.7	5,931,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.22	2,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	620,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	197,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.72	1.72	1.66	1.66	9,529,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.86	1.9	1.84	1.84	10,236,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	28	27	28	848,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	110,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	12,080,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	9,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	600,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	540,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	4	3.9	4	31,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	2,200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	371,800

CURRENCIES

February 23, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.839278	1.000000	51.7340
Japan	Yen	0.007088	0.008445	0.4369
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463533	1.743800	90.2137
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108136	0.128844	6.6656
Switzerland	Franc	0.640426	0.763068	39.4766
Canada	Dollar	0.731142	0.871156	45.0684
Singapore	Dollar	0.514201	0.612670	31.6959
Australia	Dollar	0.617480	0.735727	38.0621
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.227089	2.653576	137.2801
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223778	0.266631	13.7939
Brunei	Dollar	0.512630	0.610799	31.5991
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000107	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021296	0.025374	1.3127
UAE	Dirham	0.228505	0.272264	14.0853
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.191500	61.6411
Argentina	Peso	0.273203	0.325521	16.8405
Brazil	Real	0.392259	0.467377	24.1793
Denmark	Kroner	0.134044	0.159714	8.2626
India	Rupee	0.018843	0.022452	1.1615
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225612	0.268817	13.9070
Mexico	New Peso	0.080252	0.095620	4.9468
New Zealand	Dollar	0.552157	0.657895	34.0355
Norway	Kroner	0.124107	0.147874	7.6501
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013992	0.016672	0.8625
South Africa	Rand	0.137480	0.163808	8.4744
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.001026	0.0531
Sweden	Kroner	0.106828	0.127286	6.5850
Syria	Pound	0.016168	0.019264	0.9966
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025717	0.030642	1.5852
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000466	0.0241



Marriage Encounter in Tagaytay

THE REACHING OUT FOR THE Lord (ROL) Series of the Tuklasan Sector-Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines is slated to sponsor another Marriage Encounter weekend seminar from March 3 to 5 at the Angels' Hills Seminar and Formation Center, Tagaytay City.

Spearheaded by Lui-Gail Reñon, together with their ROL 22 classmates, the 3-day weekend seminar is ideal for married couples seeking fulfillment and rejuvenation in their marriages. It also hopes to redirect their relationship to be Christ-centered.

Scheduled to serve as ecclesial team are Rev. Fr. Jess V. Fernandez, SJ, Pete-Tess Legislador and Nick-Marlene Aquino.

For registrations/reservations (on a first-come, first-served basis), call: Lui-Gail Reñon-0920-9236118, 805-7500; Boy-Lolly Reyes- 0926-6915280, 651-2654; Rolly-Pearl Carbonnell - 0919-8048834, 0915-9330424, 640-4675, 641-1265; Gerry-Gina Martinez - 0918-9119680, 0918-9119672, 871-5141; Dong-Emie Lalic - 0918-9280293; and Danny-Evelyn Fernandez - 0915-5496035, 0918-2193321, 731-4868, 740-8816.

Deadline for registrations/reservations is on Feb. 24. Seminar fee is P3,600/couple for the entire 3-day weekend.

Jollibee Foundation, Gawad Kalinga to build homes for landslide victims

THE JOLLIBEE FOUNDATION, in partnership with Gawad Kalinga, has committed to build 100 homes for the families affected by the landslide in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Marissa Camacho-Reyes, executive director of Jollibee Foundation, also announced that all Jollibee stores nationwide are accepting coin donations for the landslide victims. Coin banks are designated in Jollibee stores where customers can drop their donations. The proceeds will be earmarked for the construction of the houses. All Jollibee stores in the Visayas are also accepting donations in kind (food, water, clothing, etc.).

Since Sunday, the Jollibee Foundation has been sending food for the rescue teams, as well as relief goods and meals to evacuees. It also donated 1,000 sets of gloves and masks for the rescue team and 1,000 relief packages for the evacuees in Kristo Rey High School.

ASSUMPTION ILOILO SILVER JUBILEE HELD FEB. 3

Assumption Iloilo batch 1980 celebrated its silver jubilee Feb. 3 to 5 by hosting a Grand Velada and Homecoming Mass at Assumption Iloilo. Coming together after 25 years, the alumnae were given a chance to relive the Assumption spirit and to bear witness to the gift of receiving an Assumption education. Shown, 1st row from left, are Jane Dellota, Chippy Ybiernas, Therese Alba-Hortillas, Chit Sison-Goquinco, Tetsie Buendia-Alejo, Mylene Concepcion-Gorrecho, Elena de los Reyes-Reyes, Sr. Stella Marie Sanz, ra, Rochelle Yngcong-Dercks, Irene Caling-Pelino, Diana Viterbo-Singca, Faith Charity Jacildo-Encarnacion, May Militar-Recio, Luisa Saldana-Jalandoni, Annie Hechanova-Santos, Natalie Ng-Yao. Shown 2nd row, from left, are Millie Sanson-Payba, Rosalie Lazaro, Josephine Canong, Marijo Rivera-Ramos, Gay Lopez-Lavalle, Tata Yapjoco-Fernandez, Matilde Palmares-Ng, Madesa Espeleta-Espana, Joan Javelosa-de Jesus, Lia Gonzaga-Fermin, Cristy Azcona-Torre, Nefie Paspe-Pantin. Shown 3rd row, from left, Machalen Teves-Camahort, Grace Acevedo-Basmayor, Shirley Mijares-Tagamolila, Maureen Flores-Fortuna, Gemma Hipolito-Grino, Delia Serra, Jiza Locsin-Barredo, Agnes Locsin, Reza Dumayas-Diaz, Pilar Catequista, and Laily Golez-Nava.

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Telephone No. 082-221-9400 (local 234 and 233)
Fax No. 082-2264885

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Davao City Water District (DCWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee-B (BAC-B), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract.

Package 1:

Name of Contract	Exploratory Well Drilling of Riverside Production Well No. 2
Location	Los Amigos, Tugbok District, Davao City
Brief Description	250mmØ borehole for 500m depth exploratory well drilling. 200m depth well utilization with gravel pack and 18m depth cement grout with 1m clay seal for sanitary seals, 650mmØ upper borehole with 450mmØ x 661m Blank casing, 450mmØ lower borehole with 250mmØ stainless screen/blank casing combination. Rotary Drilling Method.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 4,859,954 82
Contract Duration	149 Calendar Days

Package 2:

Name of Contract	Exploratory Well Drilling of Panacan Production Well No 3
Location	Upper Malagamot, Brgy. Panacan, Davao City
Brief Description	250mmØ borehole for 300m depth exploratory well drilling. 180m depth well utilization with gravel pack and 18m depth cement grout with 1m clay seal for sanitary seals, 600mmØ upper borehole with 400mmØ x 92lm Blank casing, 450mmØ lower borehole with 250mmØ stainless screen / blank casing combination. Rotary Drilling Method
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 3,897,570.92
Contract Duration	131 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-B will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation-A (IRR-A)

The schedule of BAC-B activities is as follows.

	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	February 17-March 3, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 17-March 3, 2006
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 18-March 10, 2006
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 13-March 24, 2006
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	March 15-31, 2006
6.	Pre-bid Conference	April 7, 2006, 2 00 P.M.
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 19, 2006, 2 30 P.M.

The BAC-B will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms thru the BAC-B Secretariat c/o at the DCWD Office of the General Manager, Bajada, Davao City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,500 00 per package to the DCWD Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BACB at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC-B at the same address

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC-B to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,500 00 per package to the DCWD Cashier

The Davao City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids

Approved by:

(Sgd.) WILLIAM V. GUILLEN
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee-B

(PDI – February 17 & 24, 2006)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2104
Direct Line: 840-1614 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1619

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through its Corporate Budget of 2005 intends to apply the sum of Php 246.598.000 00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES** (the "Project") Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening

PNOC EC now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES**. The contract duration for the Project is One (1) year.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidding with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from PNOC EC's Procurement Section (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting February 24, 2006 upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of Pesos: One Thousand Five Hundred (Php 2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **March 15, 2006, 3:00 P.M.** at the PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted in three (3) sets each to PNOC EC's Bids and Awards Committee not later than **2:00 P.M. on March 28, 2006.** The bids including the eligibility requirements shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. **Late Bids shall not be accepted.**

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

This publication is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net

Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Feb. 24, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

RESOLUTION NO.: 2006-001
DATE: JAN. 31, 2006

SUBJECT : RESPONSIBILITY TO ISSUE NOTICES OF SUSPENSION, DISALLOWANCE OR CHARGE ARISING FROM THE SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT OF TRANSACTIONS.

WHEREAS, under COA Resolution No. 2002-005, this Commission has simplified and restructured COA's organization to focus on its core functions of accounting, auditing and settlement of accounts;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the organizational restructuring, the responsibility for the issuance of notices of suspension, disallowance or charge in the audit of settlement of accounts exercised by auditors in the audit sector was transferred to the Legal and Adjudication Office (LAO);

WHEREAS, the transfer was effected to delineate the separation of the auditing function from the adjudication and fraud investigation functions and to focus the time and resources of the audit sectors in the conduct of, and strengthening their capabilities in, financial audit;

WHEREAS, nearly three years after the organizational restructuring intended to streamline the audit performance of COA, there is a remarkable improvement in the financial audit capabilities of auditors brought about by the refocusing of resources and continuing audit capability building interventions provided;

WHEREFORE, the foregoing premises considered, this Commission ***RESOLVES***, as it is ***HEREBY RESOLVED***, to restore to the audit sectors the responsibility for the issuance of notices of suspension, disallowance or charge arising in the course of the settlement of accounts and their review of transactions covered by their audit programs. The Offices under the Legal and Adjudication Sector shall be responsible for the issuance of such notices in case of audits conducted by its teams. Such responsibility shall be exercised in the manner prescribed under Presidential Decree No. 1445, pertinent laws, rules and regulations to be promulgated by this Commission.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Quezon City, January 31, 2006.

GUILLERMO N. CARAGUE
Chairman

EMMANUEL M. DALMAN
Commissioner

REYNALDO A. VILLAR
Commissioner

(PDI - Feb. 24, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel Nos. (632) 920-6401 * (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph * Website http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SSS SELF-SERVICE INFORMATION TERMINALS

Supply, delivery and set-up into operational state fifty (50) units Self-Service Information Terminals and one (1) unit Management Server

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) intends to apply the sum of P9,713,704.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above proposed equipment, consisting of the following

	Item Description	Amount	Source of Fund
Item #1	Hardware & Software	P7,472,080 00	CY2006 Approved Budget for Information Terminals
Item #2	3-year Maintenance Service	P2,241,624.00	Budget for Operating Expenditures
	TOTAL	P9,713,704 00	M/R Computer Equipment

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the supply, delivery and set-up into operational state the required hardware and software. Supply, delivery and installation of the GOODS are required within sixty (60) calendar days after contract signing/receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a **nonrefundable fee of P5,000.00**. The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground Floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

6. The SSS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **March 10, 2006** at 3:00 p.m., Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building on **March 24, 2006 not later than 3:00 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be held on **March 24, 2006 at 3:00 p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.

9. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 922-2991, 924-7380, 920-6401 local 5491
Email: bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number (02) 924-7380

(Sgd.) THE CHAIRMAN
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 24, 2006)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CONSTANTE C. PAZ has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Oscar Eusebio, San Diego, California, U.S.A and authenticated by Vice - Consul Gines Jaime Ricardo D. Gallaga of the Republic of the Philippines, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A per Document No. 02060-62, Series of 2006
(PDI Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2006)

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OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory

of Our Dearly Beloved

NORMA ZAPATA RODRIGUEZ

on her 1st Death Anniversary who joined her Maker last February 25, 2005 at the age of 67.

Holy masses will be held at the following churches on Feb. 25, 2006

Santo Niño de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt Park, Makati City ..... 4:30 p.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio, Makati City ..... 5:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes, Makati City ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz St., Makati City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Santo Rosario de Pasig Parish, Rosario, Pasig City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Greenhills, San Juan City ..... 6:00 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Antipolo City ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Church, Taytay, Rizal ..... 6:00 p.m.
St. Peter and St. Paul Parish, P. Burgos St., Makati City ..... 6:30 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Kalayaan, Bel-Air, Makati City ..... 6:30 p.m.

Thank you Lord for the exemplary life that Norma lived as your loyal servant. We are grateful for her loving care, her charity, good deeds and the benevolence she showered us, her family and to others whose lives she touched. We will always remember her as your gift to us, her family.

With love,

Vincent, Sr. (husband); **Vivian**, **Vincent Jr. (Boy)**, **Veronica** and **Voltaire (Butch)** (children), Sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

A Special Mass will be held exclusively for the members of her family on February 25, 2006 at the Santo Niño de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati City at 2:30 p.m. (For details please call 848-10-18 and ask for Judith)

OBITUARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEVOTED HUSBAND,
A LOVING FATHER AND A DEDICATED FRIEND

ON THE 2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

BENSON T. FOO

MAY 30, 1953 - FEB. 24, 2004

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS WILL BE OFFERED AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

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COLUMBAN CHURCH, OLONGAPO CITY.....5PM
SAN LORENZO CHURCH, SUBIC ZAMBALES.....6AM

Pacita Cabahug Concepcion

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 23, 2006 at the age of 93.

Her body lies in state at National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 26, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

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BUSINESS

BSP sees more robust, competitive banking sector

By Doris C. Dumlao

AS MORE STRINGENT REGULATIONS come into play, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects the banking industry to consolidate faster with only a few banks left to dominate the field.

In his keynote address during the national branch managers' convention of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the banking industry would see more meaningful changes in the coming years as more international best practices are fully adopted.

Espenilla said consolidation would be prompted by a stronger regulatory framework, stiffer competition posed by existing foreign banks, new foreign investors coming into existing banks, and the technical demands posed by modern banking and finance standards.

"We see a banking landscape dominated by a relative handful of main banks complemented by a plethora of smaller banks that serve various well-defined market niches," he said.

Aside from the shift to the more stringent International Accounting Standards, the BSP is overhauling its regulations in line with the Basle 2 capital adequacy framework.

Espenilla also said the BSP would continue its strong advocacy for the enactment of the Credit Information System Act.

"This will pave the way for the establishment of a truly comprehensive credit information system that is expected to lower the cost of credit, provide greater access to credit in general, and reduce the dependency on collateral-based lending," he said.

Metrobank vice chair Arthur V. Ty said that Metrobank, for its part, has put in place measures to upgrade service quality, customer analytics, and product and service marketing.

Call for 'new' People Power

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THIS WEEK MARKS THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY of the People Power that toppled a dictatorship.

Today, other forms of people power are needed to topple other kinds of oppression.

One kind of oppression is the mandatory environment insurance coverage.

This requires additional insurance premiums from firms that pose no threat to the environment, such as those with certificates of non-coverage (CNCs).

A CNC is the certification by the DENR that a project has negligible impact on the environment. So why the required added insurance?

The MEIC, considered a useless expense and an oppressive government imposition, discourages investors from investing in food processing areas, which is so necessary for agricultural development.

But how can Alyansa alone change this DENR order? Enter a different form of people power.

The Alyansa linked with other organizations, including FPI, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PhilExport, Philippine Business for Environment, Air and Water Management Association and local industry associations to oppose the MEIC.

Upon receiving position papers from these firms, DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes acted promptly and indefinitely suspended the MEIC.

Power of the poor

Right after the announcement, a group of upland farmer and mangrove fisherfolk leaders met with Secretary Reyes.

They met with him to press their case on the restoration of cancelled Community Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs).

They represent upland farmers who cover 1.9 million of the 4 million hectares of upland forests, and mangrove fishers with CBFMAs covering 200,000 hectares of mangrove plantations.

Another form

Instead of just submitting position papers, the farmer and fisherfolk leaders came from as far away as Mindanao to appeal personally as a united group to the newly installed DENR secretary.

Josefina Campo, president of all the CBFMA contract holders nationwide, said: "DENR should revoke the unjustified CBFMA cancellations immediately. They are not only depriving us of our livelihood. They are also endangering our environment because no one is looking after the areas we used to take care of."

Rather than initiating legal action against the DENR or filing for a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the CBFMAs, these leaders have placed their faith in Secretary Reyes. During their meeting with Secretary Reyes, an industrialist offered to assist them by supplementing their people power with legal action.

In response, Arsenio Tanchuling, Tambuyog Development Center executive director, said: "If even this action fails, we will show a different form of people power that may be more risky. But it will protect our basic rights."

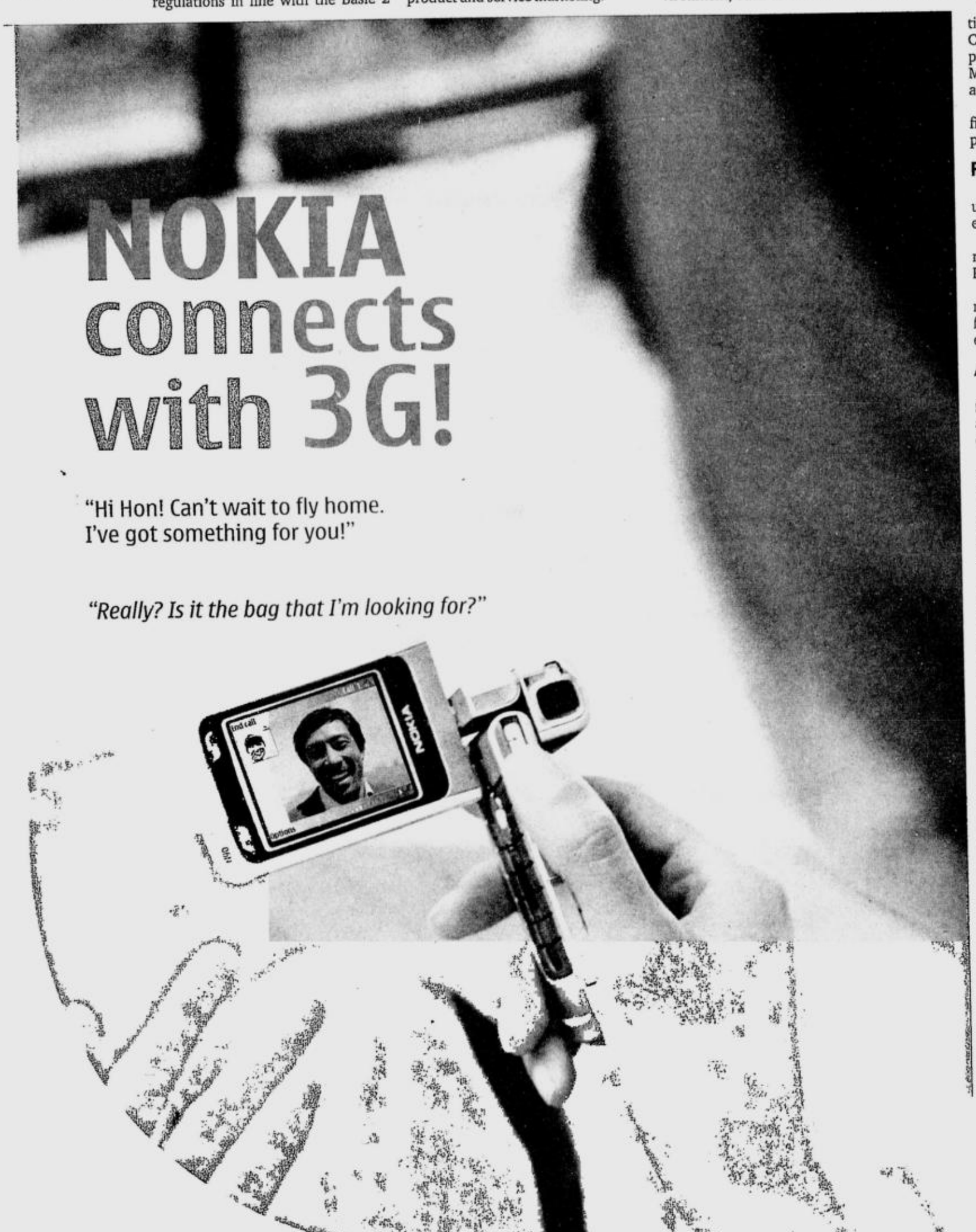
Where there is good governance, there is no need for people power.

Today, there are pockets of clearly bad governance, such as the MEIC implementation and the CBFMA cancellations.

Different forms of people power must now be used.

Before violent action is used out of desperation, government officials should respond to the peaceful forms of people power with the same good governance, political will and speed shown by Secretary Reyes when he suspended the MEIC implementation.

(For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)



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UCPB

Notice of Deferment
UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS BANK
Annual Stockholders Meeting

Notice is hereby given that in view of the unresolved cases still pending before the Sandiganbayan, the Board of Directors of UCPB has decided to defer the regular annual stockholders meeting of the bank, scheduled on March 7, 2006

(Sgd.) Atty. JOSE A. BARCELON
Corporate Secretary

(PDI—Feb. 24, 2006)

UCPB

NOTICE OF DEFERMENT
UCPB SAVINGS BANK, INC.
ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

The regular annual stockholders meeting of UCPB Savings Bank, Inc. scheduled on March 7 2006 is hereby deferred until further notice.

(Sgd.) JOSE A. BARCELON
Corporate Secretary

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Ho and behold

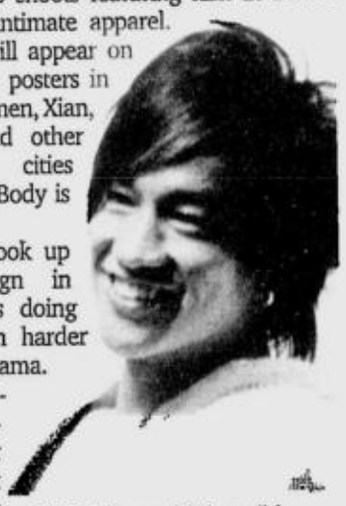
PETER Ho, star of "Love of the Aegean Sea"

Shanghai-based Taiwanese heartthrob Peter Ho is in town to pose for Bench Body

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Patrick Uy

THE SECOND TIME IS NEVER as nerve-wracking as the first. Shanghai-based Taiwanese heartthrob Peter Ho found this out for himself when he stepped anew in front of the cameras with nothing but his undies on.

The soft-spoken star of the TV soap "Love of the Aegean Sea" recently flew to Manila to do a series of photo shoots featuring him in Bench Body's latest intimate apparel. The images will appear on billboards and posters in Shanghai, Xiamen, Xian, Hangzhou and other big Chinese cities where Bench Body is sold.



GUESS how old the mild-mannered star is.

Ho, who took up graphic design in Canada, finds doing comedy much harder than doing drama. Nothing, however, can compare to what he felt last year when he did his very first photo shoot also for Bench Body.

"I found it very hard to pose," he says of the experience. "It was my first underwear commercial and I felt naked. I knew that everyone would be staring not only at the product, but what's underneath it."

This time, though, Ho's more relaxed about the entire experience. Bench Body, he says, has a way of making a supposedly racy exercise into something bordering on wholesome. For one, he doesn't feel compelled by people behind the product to do suggestive poses.

"Bench opened my mind," he says. "Now it's my turn, through the product, to educate everyone that underwear has become a fashion statement."

But the initial campaign did create quite a stir, as Ho's fans, composed mostly of women, began talking about it in various websites. Most people's impression of him soon changed as well when they saw images of him splashed on major highways.

"Before the commercial came out, a lot of people thought that I was quite fragile and bony," he says. "What they didn't know was I worked pretty hard at the gym to get that kind of body. Yes, I'm getting some attention because of it."

Sexy scenes

In fact, not a few of China's influential movie directors complimented him for his "yummy" images. He may have turned 30 last Sept. 13, but

HO/ C3

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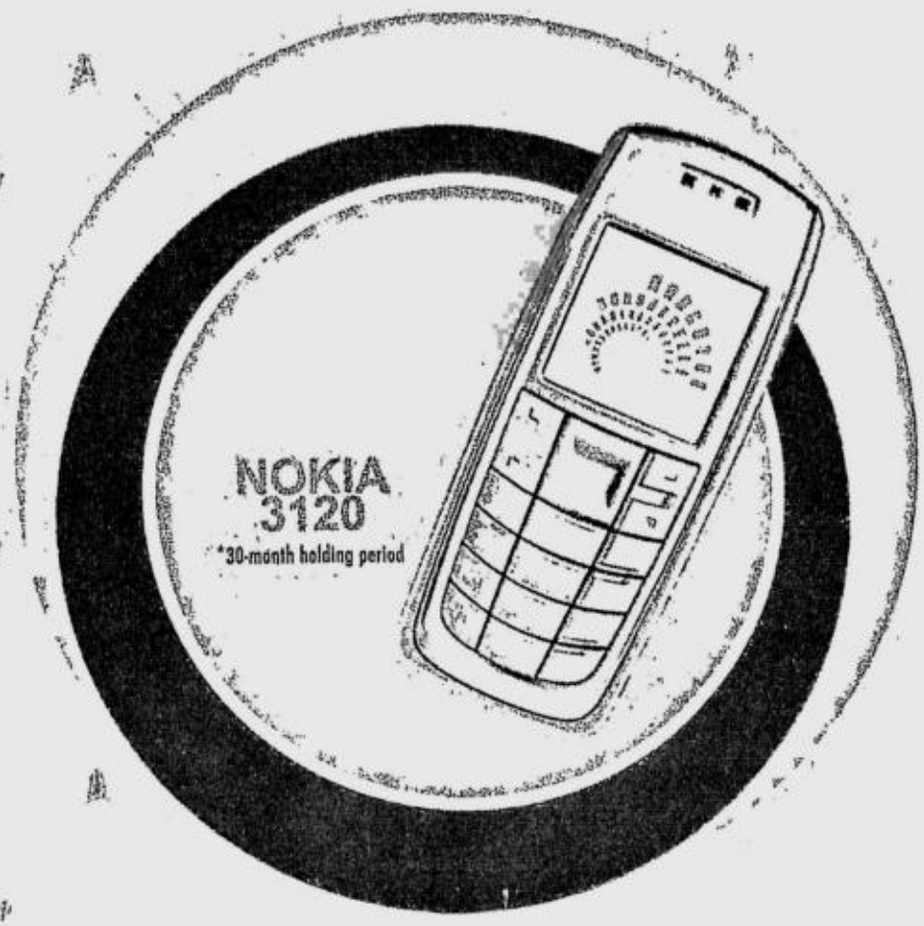

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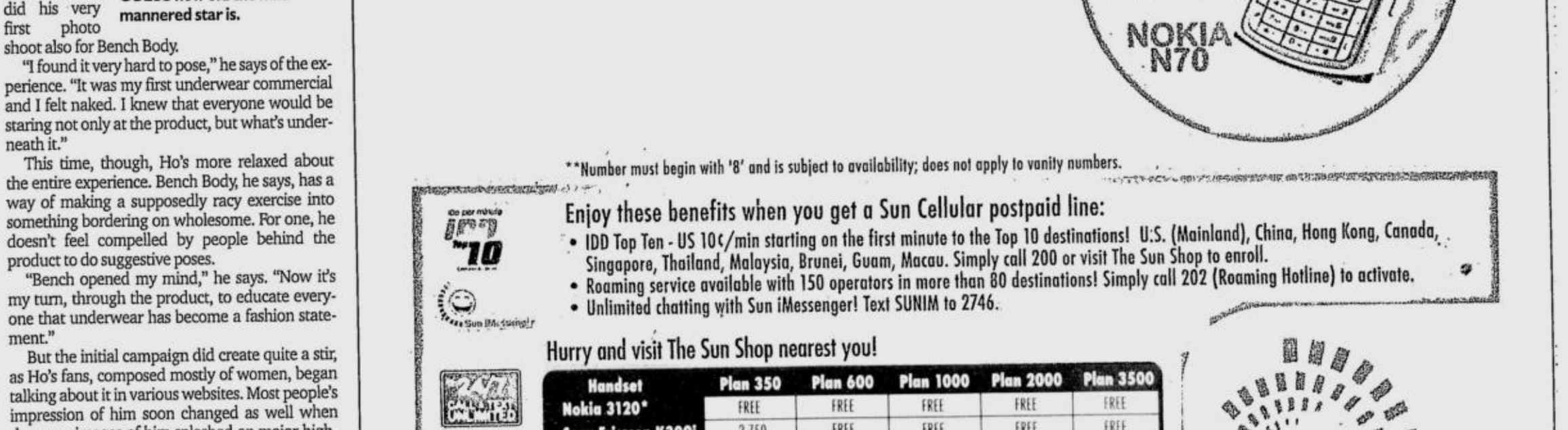


JENNI Epperson, Dolly Ann Carvajal, Cinderella marketing manager Richie Santos, Mega editor Carla Sibal and Cinderella's Marielle Santos

TRENDY fashionable people. Designers Tippi Ocampo, hip designer Kate Torralba, cool gal Malou C. de Venecia and in-demand couturier Rhett Eala who plays DJ for the event

MOVERS and shakers. Felix Coronel, Marie Claire editor in chief Myrza Sison, Romina Gonzales, model Bianca Valerio and Angelo Barretto

Chic opening of chic flagship store

CINDERELLA IS REALLY ON a roll these days. The movers and shakers of the fashion set, in fact, were there to witness the grand opening of its new flagship store in Megamall.

This pioneering fashion brand has as its motto the 3 C's—challenge, change and commitment. That motto is reflected in the fantastic store designed by Phased of Singapore. Its clean white walls now have stylish murals by **Rina Albert**.

The winter-chill theme of the launch was complemented by the launching of the Esprit Privilege Card. No less than our favorite fashion shopper, *palangga* **Jenni Epperson**, hosted the chic launch of the card. She also hosted the fantastic fashion treat from the luxury shoe brand, Clarks, natch!

Talented couturier **Rhett Eala**, turned DJ for the night, spinning cool house grooves as top models strutted their stuff on the catwalk. Models also wore Esprit's trendy junior collection.

More surprises? You bet, *palanggas*. Cinderella also launched its newest baby, Creature a la Mode, a project of **Marielle C. Santos**. The line gives us several *tres* exclusive collections from our very own fashion designers such as **Kate Torralba, Tippi Ocampo, Reian Mata, LZ Punzalan** and **Irene Pineda**, dahlings.

The highlight, *naturellement*, was the unveiling of the awesome new Cinderella shop by glamour women led by **Myrza Sison** of Marie Claire and Esprit marketing manager for wholesale in Asia **Mary Tse**, who jetted in from Hong Kong. The launch also gave away prizes to lucky invitees.

Fashion addicts may get an Esprit Privilege Card with a minimum purchase of P5,000. The card provides holders with exclusive privileges such as special discounts, tickets to parties and invitation to sales, *palanggas*.

Big party

The one-of-a-kind Team Bigfish opened this year with a bang by superbly hosting the "Politics of Dancing II World Tour," at the World Trade Center, which featured America's *numero uno* DJ, **Paul van Dyk**, no less. The party had the support of Motorola and Folded & Hung.

And as expected, the WTC was packed with the town's beautiful clubbers, a mix of the old-school young-at-heart and the hot new breed of party animals, rocking to Paul VD's fab new sound.

As usual, dahlings, it was another world-class production by the awesome Team Bigfish, composed of cool party couple, **Domini Primero** and beauty queen **Joanne "Josa" Quintos P.**, and their business partners, the blooming **Pixie Cheah** and her boyfriend, **Ricky Daker** of First Activate.

Moi couldn't miss the elevated VIP section, which had the *tres* exclusive Motorola VIPs. Above the section were hypnotic F&H visuals.

Seen partying were TV's "Bling"'s **Tim Yap**; Shu Uemura's main gal **Tina Tinio**; **Twinky Lagdameo** and **Jack Madrid**; PLDT's **David Nugent** with his special pal, Metro Magazine's **Ipe Cruz**; newlyweds **JP** and **Hillary Bautista**; and **Anton Ramos** of The Chillout Project.

On the pulsating dance floor, swimming in the ocean of clubbers were top fashion designers **Randy Ortiz, Tonichi Nocom, Rajo Laurel**, Rhett Eala and **Ronald Pineda**.

Also seen were entertainment's comeback kid, the super nice **Rustom Padilla**; brilliant fashion director **Robby Carmona** with leading make-up stylist **Jing Monis**; TV personality **Robin da Rosa** with TMK's **John Francis Alvarez**; Motorola's **Mari Litonjua**, with Ogilvy's **Gabby Katigbak**, plus several others.

Dig this: I heard from a *tres* reliable source that the wow Chicane is heading back to *Manille* sooner than soon. So till the next Bigfish bash!

FASHION watchers Grace Agbayani, Florence Coronel and Janet L. Coronel

WOMEN of power. Cinderella's Therese C. Santos with Arce Ice Cream and Cuillere Catering's Arlene Arce

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Golf meet

The 3rd Omega Cup was held at the Wack Wack Country Club with Omega's area sales manager for Southeast Asia, **Oliver Hugentobler**, leading the pack of hotshot golfers.

Some of the country's most famous faces and celebs were there, such as **Arnold Clavio**; *el guapo* **Eddie Gutierrez** and wife, **Annabel Rama**; **Edgar Mortiz**; good-looking **Jake Roxas**; drop-dead handsome **Brad Turvey**; **Bobby Andrews**; **Drew Arellano**; gorgeous **Alessandra De Rossi** and **Jeremy Marquez**.

VIPs in attendance were **Cesar Purisima**, FedEx executive **Alberto Lina**, Diner's Club president **Jose Pepo Nuñez**, taipan **William Gatchalian** and businessman **Rene Magadia**.

The awesome dream watch, the Omega Constellation Double Eagle Two-Tone, was awarded to the winner of the pro division, cool golfer **Mars Pucay**. **Robert Pactolerin** settled for the runner-up and cash prize.

Tied for third place were **Carito Villaroman** and **Anthony Ababa**.

Edgar Baban and **John Castro** got the professional golfers in the pro-am division.

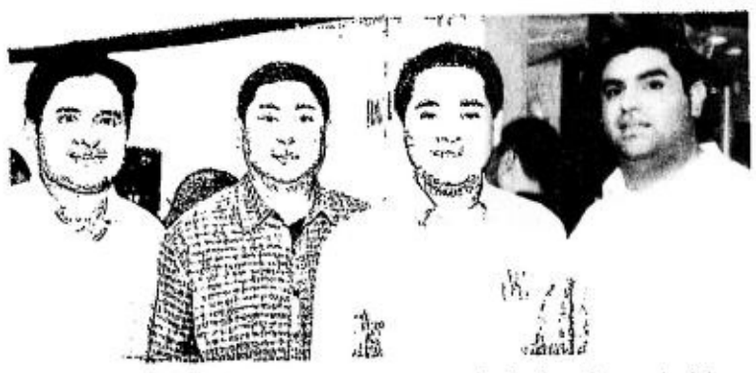
The winners in the amateur division were Drew Arellano, **Stewart Co** and **Marge Tan**. Each went home with the beautiful Omega Constellation Double Eagle All-Steel watch, natch!

"Omega has already made it a tradition to sponsor major golf tournaments around the world, including the Omega European Masters in Crans Montana," said the Cup's organizer, **Marilen Nuñez** of the Leading Events Network (LEN) Plus Inc.

Après going through 18 holes, it was time to chill out, and chill the golfers did as they all enjoyed the performance of sultry singer **Verni Varga**.

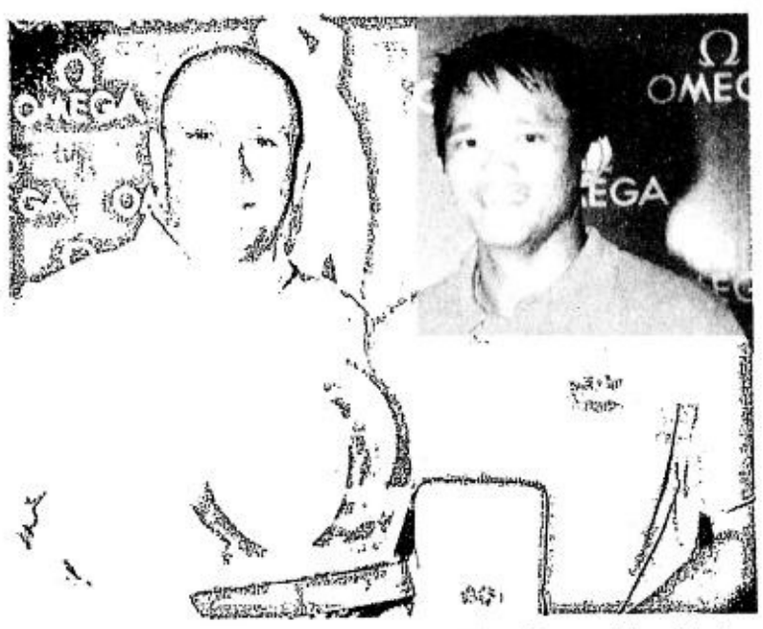
The overwhelming applause at the end of the program was proof, indeed, that the Omega Cup was a huge success.

MAGNATES Roberto de Venecia, Al Santos and Gerry San Miguel



SARV Jamora with Cinderella's Joey Coronel, Arthur Coronel with Raui Gehwani

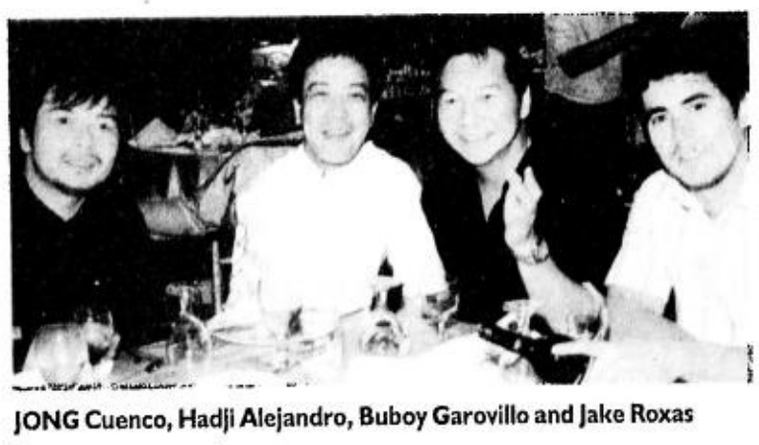
HOT golf players Edwin Umali, John Estrada and Pol de Gala



OMEGA Southeast Asia area sales manager Oliver Hugentobler with the Omega tournament golfing champ, Mars Pucay

(LEN) Plus Inc. president Marilen Nuñez

HEY, we are champions. Manuel Torres, Arnold Clavio and two other champions of the amateur division, Drew Arellano and Stewart Go



JONG Cuenco, Hadji Alejandro, Buboy Garovillo and Jake Roxas

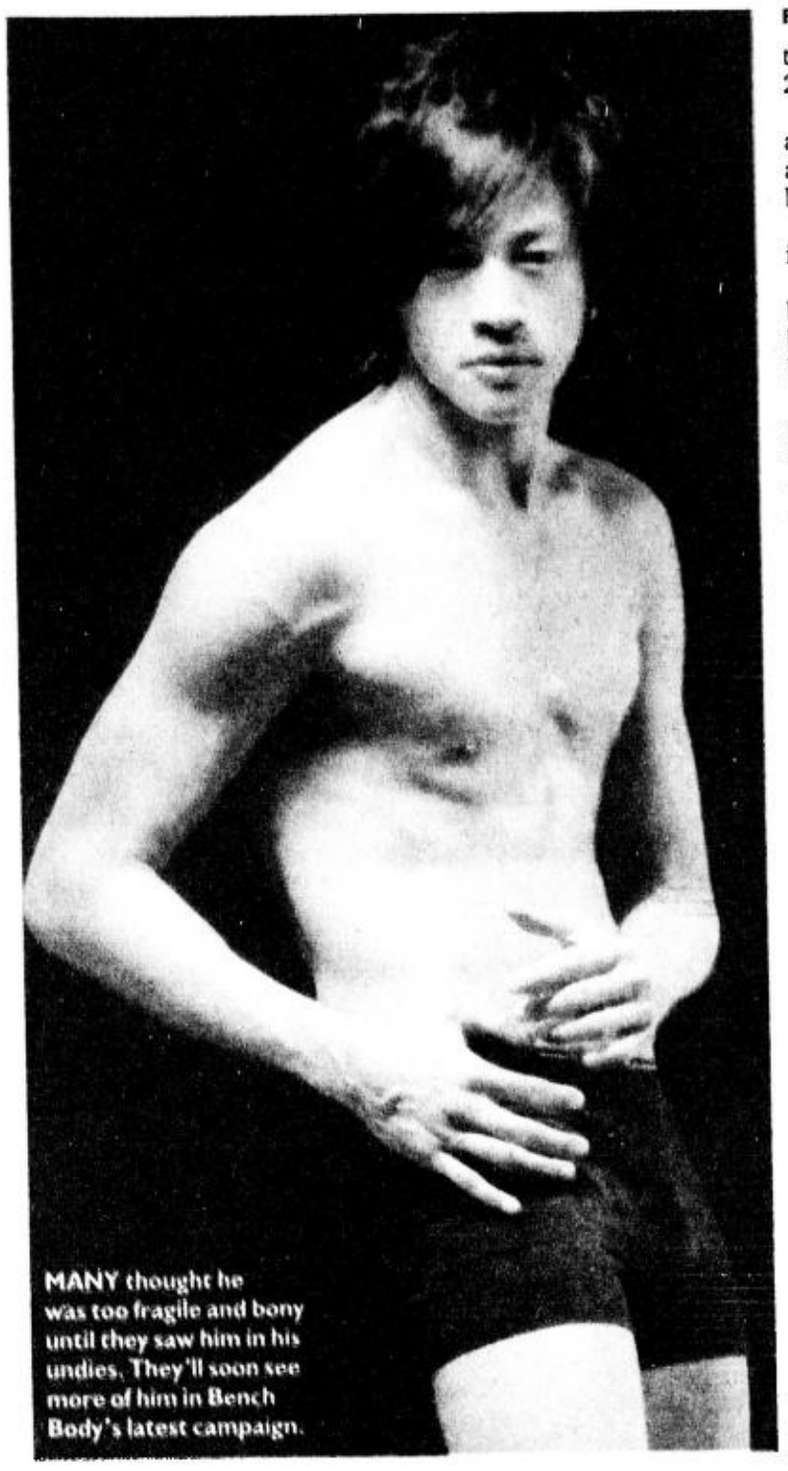
IN EACH other's arms. Beautiful Astrud C. and dashing husband Norman Crisologo

HOT men, awesome night. No. 1 DJ in the world, Paul van Dyk, with Bigfish main man Domini Primero and swinger Johnboy Vee

LOVE IS IN THE AIR. Team Bigfish's Pixie Cheah and her love, Ricky Daker

MOTOROLA'S Mari Litonjua with Bigfish first lady Joanne Quintas Primero

Ho and behold



MANY thought he was too fragile and bony until they saw him in his undies. They'll soon see more of him in Bench Body's latest campaign.

From page C1

the boyish-looking Ho doesn't look a day over 22.

"It's an advantage, actually," says the 6-foot-1 actor. "I may look a bit young, but I can actually act my age and draw from the experiences I've been through."

So how far is the lean, dark-skinned actor willing to go?

"I can do porno," he says in mock seriousness before quickly breaking into a smile and taking it back. "I can do sexy scenes if the role requires, but that's about it."

Apart from starring in movies and soaps, Ho also sings and does recording. Before he was lured into show biz, the young man dreamt of becoming a cartoonist. That dream has had to take a backseat, however, when a producer heard him sing at a karaoke bar in Taiwan several years ago.

"He signed me up and that started it," he says. "In fact, I wasn't aware that I could sing until I was a teenager. As a child, I never listened to music because I was more occupied with drawing."

Although he was born in the United States, Ho finished grade school and high school in Taiwan. Most of the teachers and nuns in the Catholic school he went to were Filipinos.

Ho earned his secondary education in an American-run high school where fellow actor and Asian idol Takeshi Kaneshiro went to.

Ho, who recently spent Valentine's day alone, has no special someone at the moment. Keeping a relationship, he says, is quite difficult given his killer schedule.

It's not uncommon, for instance, for him to stay in a particular place for three months while shooting. What about his leading ladies?

"Well, for three months or so I only have one or two choices," he says with a wink.

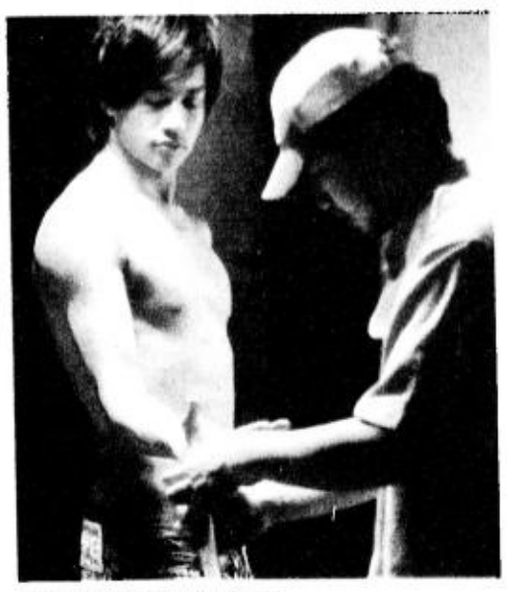
If ever he finds the right girl, he says, she has to have strong family values. She has to be independent and patient as well, as Ho himself admits that he can be quite "difficult."

"I like to talk a lot about my dreams and plans for the future," he says. "She's got to be able to listen to all the trash I talk about."

As far as looks go, Ho doesn't go for anything in particular. Nor is he concerned about a woman's age, race and religion. Filipino women, he assures, have an equal chance of winning his heart.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

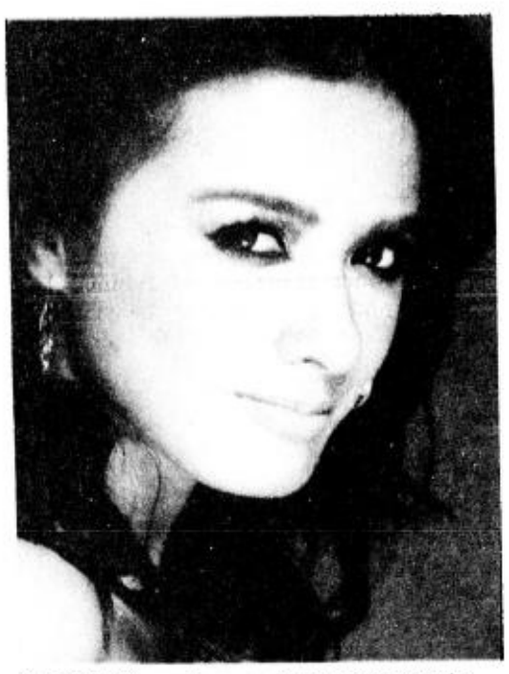
ALL HE wants is to meet a patient girl with strong family values.



PREPPING for the shoot

HO WITH Chinese colleague Qu Yin, architect Miguel Pastor and Bench head honcho Ben Chan

HO, A PRODUCT of Catholic and American schools, speaks flawless English. He also speaks Cantonese, Mandarin and a bit of Japanese.



STRIKING sundown makeup. Enhance the eyes, add lip color, dab a brighter cheek tint and put on more mascara.

FOR DAYTIME, pink or peach blush, pastel eye colors, mascara and tinted balm will suit any dress, occasion or mood.

Beautiful day and night

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE (RDS) IS holding a beauty fair until Feb. 28. It asked Preview Magazine's beauty editor, Agoo Benzon, to give RDS shoppers makeup tips for daytime and evening activities.

Daytime

"Wear regular makeup during the day, something fresh you can wear with anything," says Benzon. Soft, natural, light and understated is this year's trend.

She advises white for the eyelids, red for the lips and satin or pastel for the cheeks. "Stay sheer and sublime by wearing light hues." A pink or peach blush, pastel eye colors, mascara and a tinted lip balm are good for any daytime clothing, occasion or mood.

Nighttime

For after-6 gimmicks, a little add-on is enough. If you don't have enough time to start over, work with the makeup you applied previously. The most important change will be your eyes.

"Go smoky or do a wingtip," says Benzon. Either way, they lift droopy looking lids and bring drama to your look.

"You may also add color or gloss for shimmery lips, dab a brighter cheek tint for that added glow or put on more mascara." Be free to use brighter or more dramatic shades for a beautiful, soft, alluring and vibrant look. It's wise to carry along a multipurpose product such as a lip-cheek-eye tint.

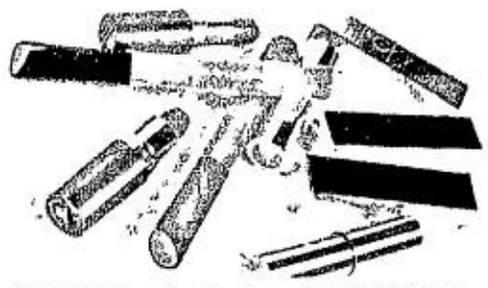
Pick a feature and make it pop. But "enhancing" is far different from "exaggerating." To avoid the scary, overdone look, focus on a specific area that you want to enhance.

More tips

"Less is best" should be everyone's mantra. Have the basics with you always: foundation or tinted moisturizer, concealer, eyelash curler, mascara, eyeliner, neutral color for lids, cheek color and lipstick or gloss. Brow groomers are important, too, as eyebrows frame the face.

Aside from protecting the face, makeup also helps contour its shape. Those with round or chubby face should use a darker shade of powder for the cheekbone, chin and jawline, then apply light cheek colors right on top of the apple. Those with longer faces should extend the eyebrows, widen the eyes and emphasize the lids with the proper eye colors.

SUBDUED foundation with creamy textures and sheer tints will be in vogue this year.



LIPSTICKS and other beauty products are available at Beauty Fair.

It is also important to choose the right foundation. "No matter how great the colors you're wearing, you'll only get that 'floating neck' problem if you have the wrong shade," says Benzon. To try, apply it on your jawline and be sure to dab a significant amount to see if it really blends.

A vast array of quality makeup and beauty products are up for grabs at Robinsons Department Stores' Beauty Fair, including Pond's, Dove, Maxi Peel, Block & White, Johnson & Johnson, Colgate-Palmolive, Nivea, L'Oreal, Maybelline, Max Factor, Revlon, VMV Hypoallergenics, and Ever Bilena, as well as Hugo Boss and Lacoste fragrances. Shoppers also get to pick prizes and take home freebies.

The Beauty Fair is ongoing until Feb. 28 at all Robinsons Department Store branches located in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart Malls, Tutuban Center, Metropolis Star and Festival Mall in Alabang and Nepo Mall Pampanga.

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Fashion power bloc emerges in the Oscars

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE RACE FOR THE OSCARS IS ON, AND that means not only the acting awards. The global audience will be glued to the television on March 5 to find out not only the winners but which designer or what fashion brand the stars will wear.

And the big question behind that big question is, who are the power fashion publicists who can snag the stars for their fashion-designer or fashion-house clients?

Fashion publicists, who represent designers and fashion houses, and the stylists, who make over the stars for their red-carpet walk, make up the latest power bloc of the global film awards industry. More and more, their names pop up in Women's Wear Daily and the fashion glossies.

Among the powerful publicists is Susan Ashbrook, whose clients include Lanvin, Escada and our own Monique Lhuillier. Ashbrook opened Film Fashion and linked up stars like Charlize Theron with Lhuillier and Lanvin in previous Oscars.

Next week, at the 78th annual Academy Awards, the hot names to dress up, according to WWD, are Oscars favorites Reese Witherspoon ("Walk the Line"), Keira Knightley, Charlize, Felicity Huffman, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams ("Brokeback Mountain").

Nobody knows for sure who will wear what until you see these Hollywood icons strutting on the red carpet.

I was just on the phone this week with Monique's mother, Amparito Lhuillier, Cebu's society doyenne and famous jeweler. She was in Los Angeles with Monique and husband Tom Bugbee, relishing the role of *lola* to Monique and Tom's newborn son. Even on the phone you could feel the energy that was built up around the new baby. The fuss wasn't so much about the Oscars and which stars would wear a Monique Lhuillier, but around the new addition to the family and Monique's motherhood. The family is readying up for the baptism this Sunday.

Even WWD, in its Oscars report last week, mentioned Monique's motherhood and quoted the designer saying that no one would really know which gown a star would slip on for the Oscars until the last moment. At this point it is heartwarming enough to know that Monique Lhuillier is already on the radar screen of the Oscars fashion media. That was the next tough feat for this young Cebuano-born designer, after having crashed into US fashion less than five years ago.

It was Giorgio Armani, two decades ago, who turned the Oscars into a fashion-watching frenzy by dressing up the Oscars frontrunners—the women and the gents. Name the Hollywood star, he or she wore Armani to the Oscars: Jodie Foster, Tom Hanks, among others.

WWD says Armani remains a strong favorite today, particularly because he has a strong team well-networked right in Hollywood. Charlize has just worn Armani to the Screen Actor Guild Awards in the run-up to the Oscars.

Armani, however, told WWD about his disappointment that Ziyi Zhang wasn't nominated for this year's Oscars. "I am naturally disappointed that Ziyi Zhang was not nominated given her compelling performance in 'Memoirs of a Geisha.' Ziyi also always lights up the red carpet."

The Oscars almost always puts a new designer or fashion house on the world map. Among the latest additions in the fickle fashion galaxy is Marchesa, the erstwhile unknown brand worn by Felicity Huffman ("Desperate Housewives") in the Golden Globes. This is a new London brand designed by twentysomething women Keren Craig and Georgina Chapman.

And of course, our very own Rajo Laurel, who's dressing up Oscars nominee Pia Clemente, just might be the new Oscars brand for 2006.

Cries for help

Away from the glare of publicity, a *balikbayan* doctor has been helping his alma mater, UP-PGH, for years now. Dr. Greg Alvior Jr., an obstetrician-gynecologist who had a successful practice in Manhattan for 30 years before he resettled here, is president of the PGH Medical Foundation, Inc. Its commitment—which Dr. Alvior has taken to heart—is to raise funds for UP-PGH.

DR. GREG Alvior addresses the audience. PHOTO BY GIL NARTEA

> Monique Lhuillier is high on the Oscar fashion radar, watched even by WWD

With other supporters of UP-PGH such as Lolita Escobar Mirpuri, Cory Quirino (head of the Alay sa PGH Fund Drive), Pitoy Moreno, Jennie Zamora, the Foundation holds an art auction/musical every year.

Two weeks ago at Manila Polo Club, the Sining at Awit Para sa PGH raised about P1.8 million in an art auction, with an Alcuaz fetching the highest bid at P365,000, followed by smaller works by Malang, Sanso and Lito Carating.

Yesterday, it was Pitoy's turn to do his bit. He announced his annual medicine scholars.

Ushered in by tragedies and disasters, 2006 should be a year that will see the lifestyle set committing their resources to the urgent cry for help.

Palms Country Club's Maitel Minana is among those calling on friends to give help to the mudslide victims in southern Leyte, Minana's father is the mayor of Anahawan.

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Deadline for entries to stencil art contest is March 6

AMATEUR ARTISTS FROM ALL OVER METRO Manila are invited to join the stencil art contest of K-Spray 2 International Stencil Tour 2006. The tour, which includes Tokyo, Seoul and Hong Kong, kicks off at 7 p.m., March 30, at the Eastwood Citywalk, Libis, Quezon City.

It is organized by K-Swiss, known for the evolutionary casual shoes with the classic white, five-striped design.

Participants should be 16-25 years old. They should create peace-inspired stencil artwork on a 3 ft x3 ft canvas. Digital photographs of entries should include the title, name and contact details of artists. Entries should be e-mailed to k-spray@rsh.com.ph

Deadline for submission of entries is March 6.

The finalists' original artworks will be displayed on the March 30 event.

GOINGS ON

LEPROSY SCREENING. The José Reyes Memorial Medical Center's Department of Dermatology will conduct free leprosy screening for family members of leprosy patients and people with initial lesions until tomorrow, Feb. 25. The screening, aimed at preventing the spread of the communicable disease, is part of the annual observance of National Leprosy Control Week, Feb. 19-25. The Out Patient Clinic of the dermatology department is open 8 a.m.-12 noon, 2/F, José Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Rizal Ave., Manila. Call Dr. Luisa Ticzon at 7119491 loc. 336 or 7116703 for details.

SCHOLARSHIP. The United World Colleges (UWC) and the United World College Philippine Alumni Network are looking for qualified fourth-year high school students who want to pursue a two-year international baccalaureate course abroad. Selected students will get full scholarships at either UWC of the Pacific in British Columbia, Canada, or UWC in Costa Rica. Applicants must be at the Top 10 of their classes and should pass qualifying examinations to be administered by the UWC Philippine alumni. Interested students and their parents are required to attend the UWC movement symposium to be conducted 9 a.m.-12 noon tomorrow at the 2/F, Blue Room (204) of the Ateneo Rockwell Campus, Makati. Call 8492438.

LADIES' FAIR. Sta. Lucia East Department Store presents "Ladies Fair" until Feb. 28. Shop and get freebies from Crisan bags and the Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center. Simply present a P300 single-tape receipt.

LECTURES. The Association for Research and Enlightenment (ARE) Philippines and the Serenity Healing Center are offering free lectures this February and the whole month of March. Topics include healing emotions; body, mind and spirit connection; and how to understand and integrate the lower and higher self. All lectures start at 6:30 p.m. The center is at 5 B, Gen. Capinpin St., Antonio Village, Pasig City. Call 6345058.

PHOTO COURSE. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation is offering an advance photo course starting March 25 at Fort Santiago, Intramuros. Call 8137420, 8435341 and 8447769.

CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo (center) receives a P500,000 donation from KC Fraternal Board of Trustees, headed by chair Alberto Solis and KC president Alfredo Taruc, for CBCP programs including the Episcopal Commission on Family Life. Others in photo are Rodolfo Magsino, Luzon deputy; Eduardo Laczi, Visayas deputy; Ernesto San Juan, Mindanao deputy; Alonso Tan, treasurer; Allan Ouano, corporate secretary; board members Ruperto Somera, Edijer Martinez, Antonio Yulo, Panfilo Pacubas Sr., and KC Fraternal's senior vice president, Raymundo Soliman Jr.

GLEE CLUB
The Miriam College High School Glee Club and Cultural Classical Dance Club, with PhilamLife Plans Inc. and Manilabank, presented recently "Prism," a concert featuring songs and dances of various genres, at the Marian Auditorium of Miriam College.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
JENNI EPPERSON
AND APPLES ABERIN-SADHWAANI

SHOOTING

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

Text us your feedback!
...er life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
...s at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

STYLING NORMAN CRISOLOGO
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By Norman Crisologo
Contributor

WHEN SUMMER'S SEXY VIBE COMES a callin', you don't say maybe, baby, you swing it and you swing it good with this season's hottest menswear. Chase the sun in persimmon, lavender, and watermelon. Revel in the luxury of embroidery. Kaleidoscope dreams never fade in funky florals and polychromed stripes. The choices are endless, and summer is long.

styling Norman Crisologo
editorial director JunJun Pobladar
art direction & graphics Lara Aguilo
photography Sarah Black
make-up Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura
using Shu Uemura's 2007 spring/summer pastel shade limited edition collection

models
Karen T-Models
Russel T-Models
Paulo T-Models
Juliana Ideal People
Randy Ideal People

wardrobe
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manila vice

It's dandy with an edge, like Agent X44 transported to the new millennium

AdVICE:

Slim pants and pointy shoes will get you laid this summer.

Do not wear black, unless it's a T-shirt, and only if you pair it with white Viktor jeans, distressed of course, with carnation belt loops.

White bespoke Tenorio's would be nice.

Be not afraid of flowers. You will NOT look like a fag. It will, however, make you look "Bango" and in touch with your feminine side—a big plus, I hear.

Don't be shy, go for bigger prints in bold colors, match florals with stripes, pattern on pattern, swap your blue jeans for grey, cornflower blue, and all the shades of white.

You MUST buy an embroidered shirt this season, from Randy Ortiz or Paul Smith if you can afford it. You will feel like a million bucks even if you just emptied your bank account to pay for it.

A well-cut slim shirt will make your chest seem bigger and your stomach smaller. How much is that worth?

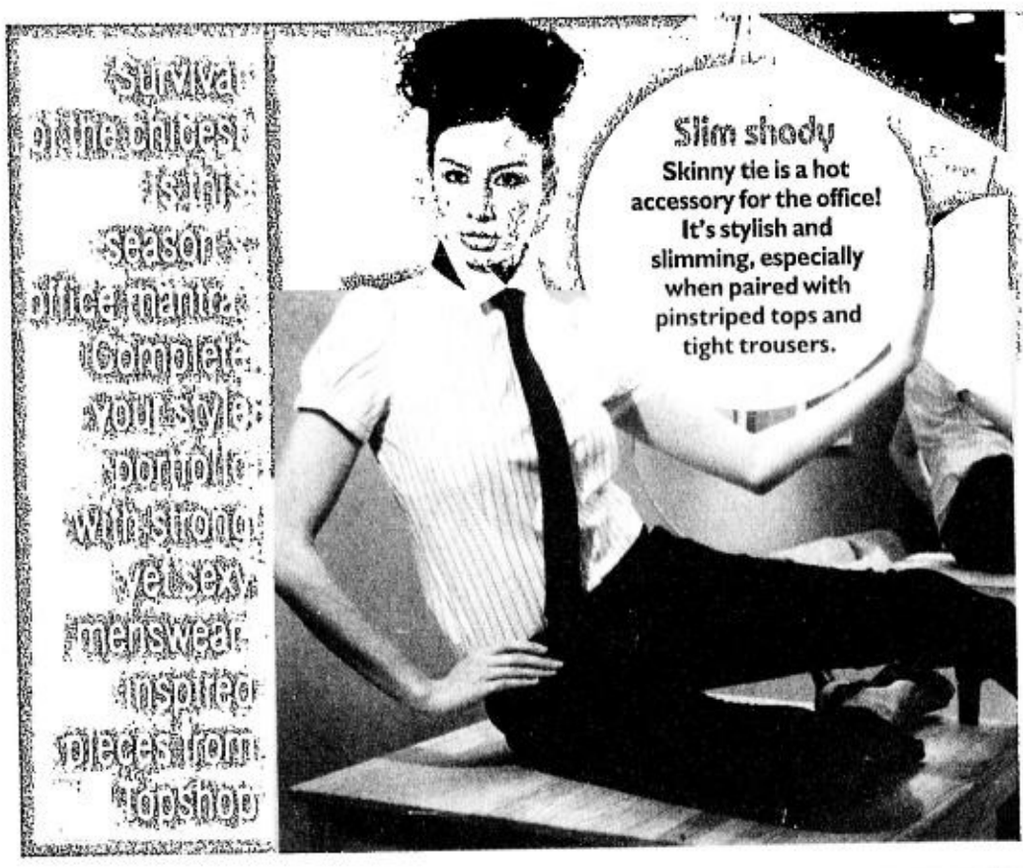
Appliqué's are the new bling. They show you value tradition, handwork, craft, love the arts, and your Lola's old tablecloths. You will NOT attract trashy women.

Pimp up your jeans with a loud contrasting belt, the "I don't give a f..." accessory of the year. Woven, striped, skulled or croc, *basta* the more you think it doesn't match, the more it probably does. Relax.

Get your Lolo's giant shades—or your Lola's. Buy vintage furniture.

The retro vibe rubs off on you, you know and you WILL get shagged.

You ARE agent Tony Falcon, and Manila's vice, standing up or lying down, will be at your feet.



ANNIE HALL IS IN THE NEWSPAPER

LATELY, I'VE BEEN PINCHING my hubby's button-down shirts (sorry, hon) to wear. Ever since Gemma Ward strutted down the catwalk wearing this season's Hermès shirtdress, my other half has never stressed about not having anything to wear (oops).

The return of menswear-inspired clothes is not a way to get back at husbands, boyfriends or lovers, but is a reflection of today's women—outspoken, strong and on the go. It's the utilitarian touch to your everyday attire.

Annie Hall's '70s style is a tad frumpy compared to this season's sleek suits and slim ties, but the idea is to raid your partner's closet. Use his oversize button-down shirt as a dress, then cinch his necktie over it and, as a finishing touch, wear your DMP (Do Me Pumps).

Jenni Epperson

You can also wear his vest as a top paired with your tightest pencil skirt and long-strand pearls.

Ask any man. There's nothing sexier and cooler than a woman wearing his togs and making it her own. It shows you're creative, independent and irresistibly hot!

But if you can't raid your man's locker, there's nothing to stop you from raiding his favorite shops. Try Topman or better yet Topshop. They have one of the coolest and hippest menswear-inspired threads (luckily in your size).

Plot your style attack and conquer the office. To get what you want in a man's world, you gotta have the balls, brains and (sometimes) wear boxers to do it.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

Compiled by Jenni Epperson
Shoppingera/pole dancer

My dad, Lito Calzado, because he is a very talented dancer and choreographer. He's well-respected in the industry and is accommodating of people.

–Iza Calzado, actress/undercover agent

Austin Powers (or Dr. Evil, I'm not too sure). It's just all these mojo I've got flowing through me. I just can't keep the imaginary models and neighborhood dogs away.

–RJ Ledesma, Manual Magazine editor in chief/part-time fluffer and full-time international man of mysterious luxury

My husband Rafa because he never fails to amuse me with his comic antics. Also, his new "adventurous" sense of style and, as cheesy as it sounds, his sweet and loving ways.

–Amina Aranaz, bag designer, commercial model/Vegas showgirl

Henry Lim Sr. I admire him the most because he was able to make it big considering he only inherited P5,000 from his father when he died. He took care of seven siblings.

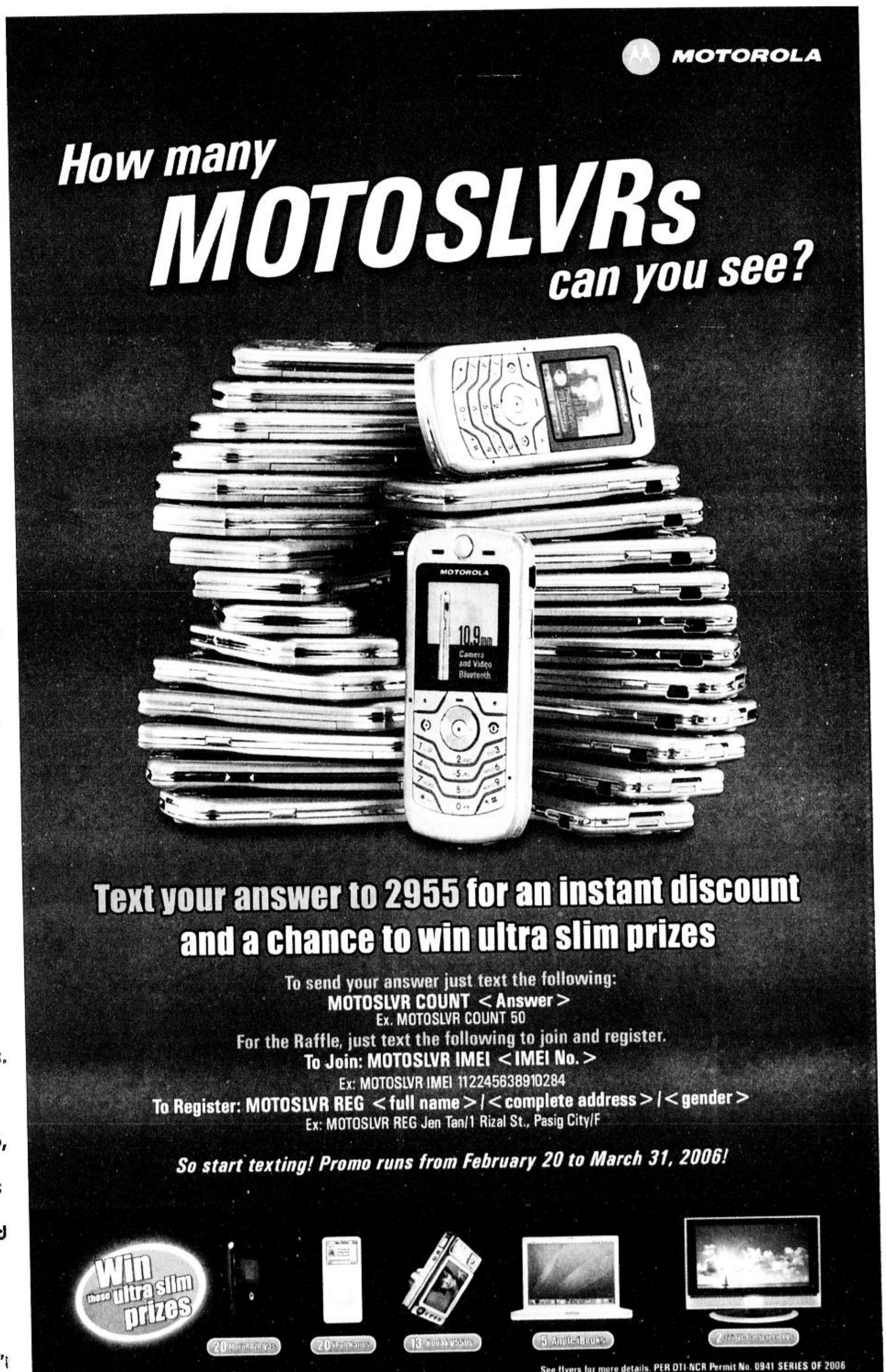
–Henry Lim, government club owner/Chippendale stripper

My best guy friends, Torto, Brian and Wils, who are not afraid to tell it like it is and are the best therapy for bad days. Also, my dad for helping me with "guy stuff" I can't do.

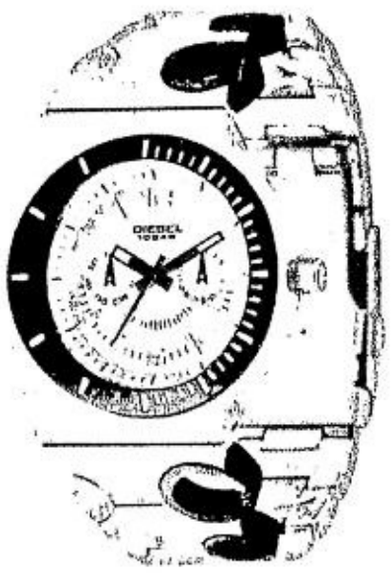
–Anne Bella, Preview fashion editor/rally car driver

Paolo Soler, because I can't get enough of his curly hair!

–Cat Juan, beauty writer, founder of PlanetZips/professional surf board waxer



FOSSIL, P4,590



DIESEL, P11,000

DKNY, P8,100

WATCHMEN

By Alex Y. Vergara

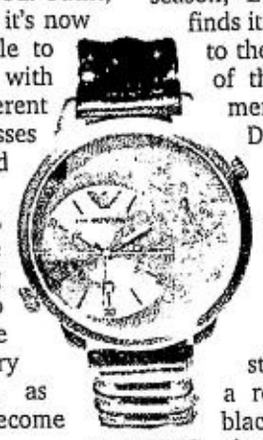
A PRACTICAL MAN CAN make do with just one watch. But if you're the whimsical type who insist on buying a fourth, fifth or even sixth watch to beef up your collection of timepieces, then it's best that you base your decision on how a new acquisition can complement your wardrobe.

"The days when you were stuck with just one or two watches are long gone," says Lorenz Manalang, marketing manager of L Time Studio. "Since watches are the safest and most functional form of accessory, they've also become a fashion statement over the years."

By introducing the concept of watches not as jewelry, but as fashion accessories in the late '80s, L Time Studio is a pioneer of sorts in the competitive and crowded watch-retail business.

Due to advances in technology, watches have also become more affordable and now come in various designs and makes.

"Changing your watch has become as common as changing your outfit," Manalang adds. "In fact, it's now common for some people to carry several watches with them. They wear different pieces as the day progresses to fit their outfit and mood."



EMPORIO Armani, P15,610

Before the likes of L Time Studio came to the scene, watches sold along Avenida Rizal and Cubao played a supporting role to more expensive jewelry pieces. Not anymore, as watches have now become stars in their own right.

The mall explosion has also given L Time Studio and its competitors more accessible venues to exclusively showcase their timepieces (no jewelry, please) to a younger, hipper crowd.

In keeping with the needs of the young and the fashionista, every L Time Studio outlet is outfitted with several full-length mirrors like those found in a bazaar or department store. How come?

"So that shoppers can look at themselves while wearing watches they intend to buy," Manalang explains. "They're no longer confined to looking at their wrists or asking their companions if certain pieces look good on them."

L Time Studio makes sure time remains a guy's ideal fashion statement

ODM, P4,390

New styles

And since trends change with the season, L Time Studio constantly finds itself introducing new styles to the market. The first quarter of the year heralds five new men's watches from DKNY, Diesel, Emporio Armani, Fossil and Hong Kong-based brand ODM.

DKNY's '70s-inspired rectangular-faced time check (NY3643) in brushed silver finish with a smooth black leather strap are perfect for those in a retro mode. Its semi-gloss black dial with a red LED display has a "back to the future" feel to it. Perfect for the disco!

In keeping with its young, off-center sensibilities (whether they're jeans or watches), Diesel has again come up with an innovatively designed watch (DZ4060) that combines bold color and creative construction.

The asymmetrical stainless-steel case is accented by a series of black aluminum rings and yellow dial. In lieu of a square-faced dial, this edition comes with a round one to appeal to the classy yet creative bunch.

For men who go for a vintage yet modern look, Fossil's latest offering (JR8985) with a distressed brown leather strap, heavy topstitching and degraded dial is for them. This quartz watch has a stainless-steel case with a brush finish.

If you love big yet elegant statement pieces then check out Emporio Armani's 50-mm number (AR0514). If not for its bold face, the watch is a classic item with a champagne dial, brushed stainless-steel case and genuine leather strap.

Finally, for the super-trendy man who thrives on novelty and gimmicks, ODM's award-winning candy blue timepiece (DD991) with a "shake" function is the ideal must-have.

Winner of the prestigious Red Dot design award in Basel, Switzerland, ODM's "Mysterious" series are button-less watches whose time and calendar modes are activated by the shake of the wrist. Certain models come with a so-called electro-luminescent backlight.

Still confused as to what watch to buy? Well, there's always room in your drawer for five more, don't you think? Like women and shoes, the same applies to men and watches. You can never have enough of them.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

STYLES OF PLAY

Believe it or not, basketball is reinventing fashion

I MAY NOT BE A BIG BASKETball fan but fanatics surround me 24/7. My husband is almost incommunicado during NBA season and my son is morphing into his mini-version.

In fact, during my 6-year-old son's birthday party, he opted for an NBA theme, instead of the usual SpongeBob, Power Rangers or Ninja Turtles gig. Heck, majority of the inhabitants of the 7,107 islands in the Philippines are probably all big fans of "The Game."

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Unfortunately, the only thing I understand about ballers and their sport is the fashion. You know, those oversized jerseys worn with baggy jeans, the latest basketball shoes in the market and loads of bling. But apparently, there's so much more to basketball than just, well, those cool-looking duds, not to mention, the dudes.

If you're as clueless as me, Nike's definition of the three laws of basketball, namely, Force, Flight and Uptempo, should enlighten you, even a smidgen, on this subject matter. Actually, what makes it truly interesting is the perfect marriage of fashion and technology. It's mind-boggling how cool-looking, hip-hopper type footwear can actually enhance your performance and protect your feet, knees and whatnot when you do decide to use them to play ball.

And although I'll still never be a big fan of the sport, now I know what all the fuss is about.

FORCE

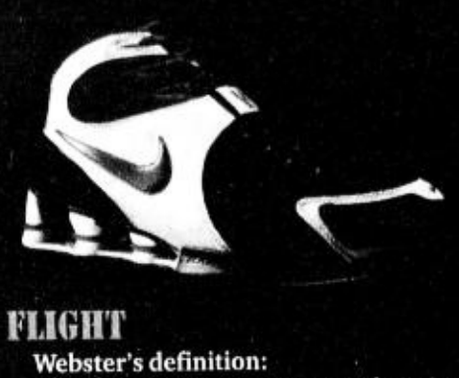
Webster's definition:

(fors) n. 1 a (1): strength or energy exerted or brought to bear: cause of motion or change: active power <the forces of nature> <the motivating force in her life> (2) usually capitalized—used with a number to indicate the strength of the wind according to the Beaufort scale <a Force 10 hurricane> b: moral or mental strength c: capacity to persuade or convince <the force of the argument>

Nike's definition:

The Force player is an enforcer. He likes to block shots and is a low-post threat. He needs to have the stamina to last the entire game, and needs the most comfortable, well-cushioned shoes to do this. He has to be able to withstand a tremendous amount of physical pounding.

The Force player is at his best with the ball in the post, backing down his man, posting up, rebounding and blocking shots. He owns the key. And he likes shoes that protect him. He needs to stay harnessed in his footwear so he can pound on his opponents.



FLIGHT

Webster's definition:

(flit) n. 1 a: an act or instance of passing through the air by the use of wings <the flight of a bee> b: the ability to fly <flight is natural to birds> 2 a: a passing through the air or through space outside the earth's atmosphere <flight of an arrow> <flight of a rocket to the moon> b: the distance covered in such a flight c: swift movement

Nike's definition:

The Flight player is a slasher and likes to finish with the fast break. He wants to feel like he can jump over a 7-footer and dunk on him. He's one of the game's highest-flyers and physically catapults over his competition.

The Flight player is at his best when he's filling the lanes on the fast break, cutting thorough the paint or driving through the key. He's the most athletic and versatile player on the court.

And he likes shoes that he can explode on the court in. He wants his footwear to propel him, to allow him to fly over his competition, and Nike Shox is his preferred technology.

UPTEMPO

Webster's definition:

(up-tem-po) adj.: having a fast-moving tempo (as in jazz)

Nike's definition:

The Uptempo player is the tempo regulator and a hustler on the court. He wants to be able to play nonstop, full-speed basketball, and needs to be able to start and stop and go at a moment's notice.

The Uptempo player is at his best with the ball in hand. He darts in and out of traffic, wreaking havoc on the court. He dishes the ball and drives down the floor. On defense, he also sets the tempo with pressure on the ball. And most of all, he is lightning fast!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

A WHITE TAWI IS IN THE NEW CUBICLE

From page D3

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL IMAGING DIX (0917-5219887)
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
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Use it as a top or over a colorful shirt and pair it with curve-hugging skirts. Add a flower pin or, better yet, pinch a fresh flower from the lobby's floral arrangement and pin it on your vest. Don't worry, no one will mind. A whiff of your fresh pickings is always welcome!

Men's button-down shirts are sexy. Wear them as a dress or as a top but style them like a kimono or a wrap top. Choose any accessory in electric blue; it's this season's turquoise.

It's about time to change the office dress code from conservative to comfy chic. Bermuda shorts just above the knee or of knee-length are as chic as pencil-cut skirts, yet more functional. Blazers and crisp shirts, though, are musts!

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR RIA FRANCISCO-PRIETO
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Eyes cocktail

Quench your beauty thirst with summer's cool palettes

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I LOVE TO CHECK out magazines for new trends and especially the makeup used on models. Unlike most girls, I really prefer beauty over fashion. Maybe because fashion changes so fast, but when it comes to beauty, it is hard to hide under the "that's their style" phrase.

I came from a salon just a while ago to have some threading done, and it surprised me when I saw it had a service for eye makeup only. That's when I realized putting eye makeup is challenging and, in fact, can be quite confusing.

After all, when it comes to the rest of the face, there is only one way to put blush-on and lipstick. Plus, there are less shades to pick from.

However, when it comes to eye shadows, there are a million and one colors to choose from and looks to do.

For most eye-shadow looks, you will need at least three shades. It is best to pick monochromatic colors to use if you are a beginner. It may sound complicated, but it isn't actually. The medium tone goes on your lids, the darker shade on the outer lid close to your lash line, and finally the lightest on your brow bone for highlight.

If you opt for more vivid shades, make sure to swipe a little at a time. It is easier to layer than try to remove too much color that's already been applied. It is best to experiment with different colors until you find the best for you. My advice is to check out less-expensive brands when experimenting.

Truth is, because of my hunt for the best eye shadow that isn't expensive, I have discovered brands that are good to try out, like Fashion 21, Ever Bilena and Fanny Serrano. I've learned that makeup doesn't have to be expensive for it to work.

Looks done in magazines should be toned down in real life. We are not doing ramp modeling, after all. For example, if a dark metallic-purple smokey eye looks hot in a magazine and you want to copy the look, it may mean lining your eyes with that great shade and curling your lashes. That's it.

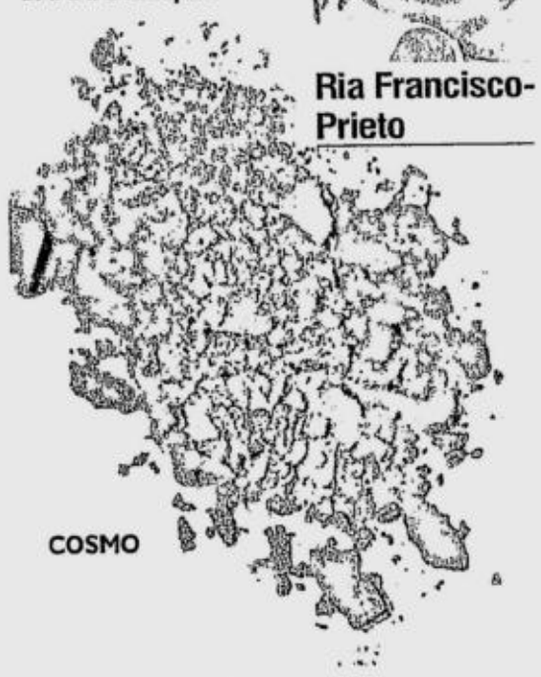
Matching your eyeshadow color with your shirt is not a good thing, but sticking to your comfort zone and trying to be adventurous once in a while is a definite go.

Aside from colors, there are different formulations to eye shadows. So familiarize yourself with them and pick what works best on you.

DARIA Werbowy lines her eye with a fresh blueberry shade.

KURANT Vodka

BANANA Daquiri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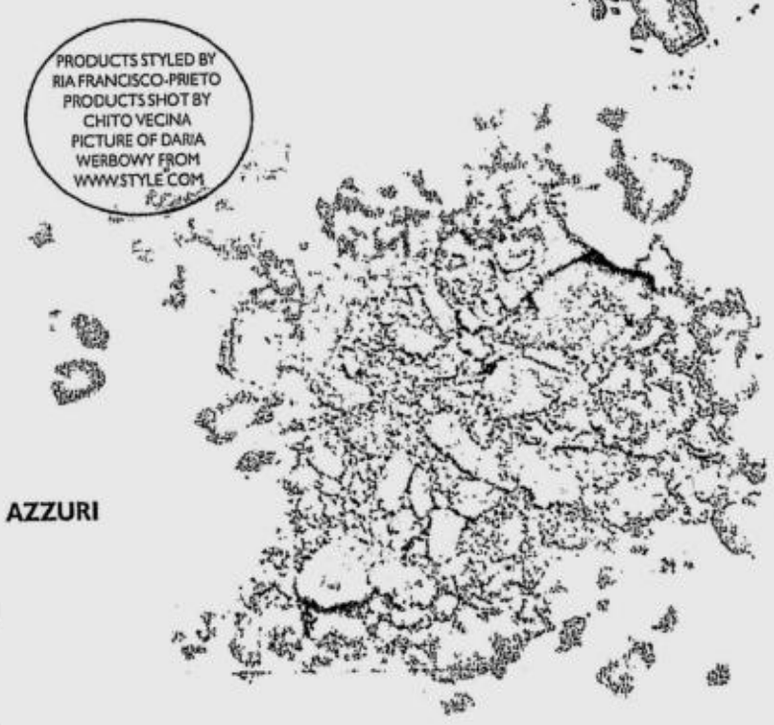
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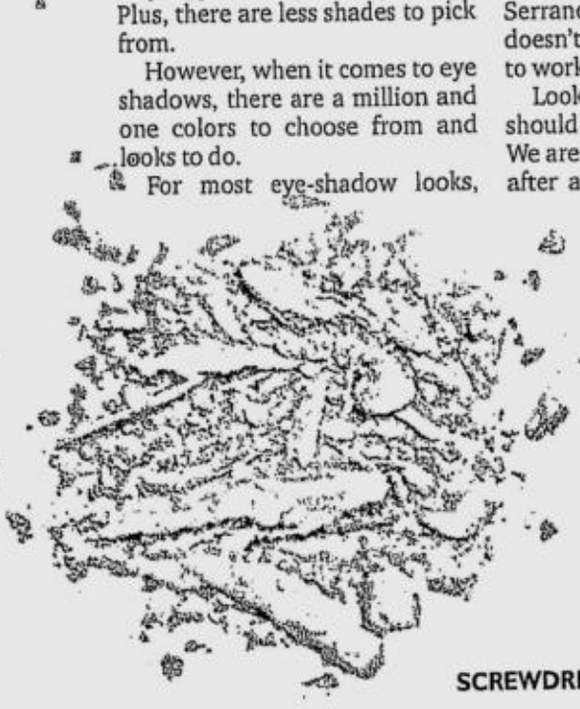
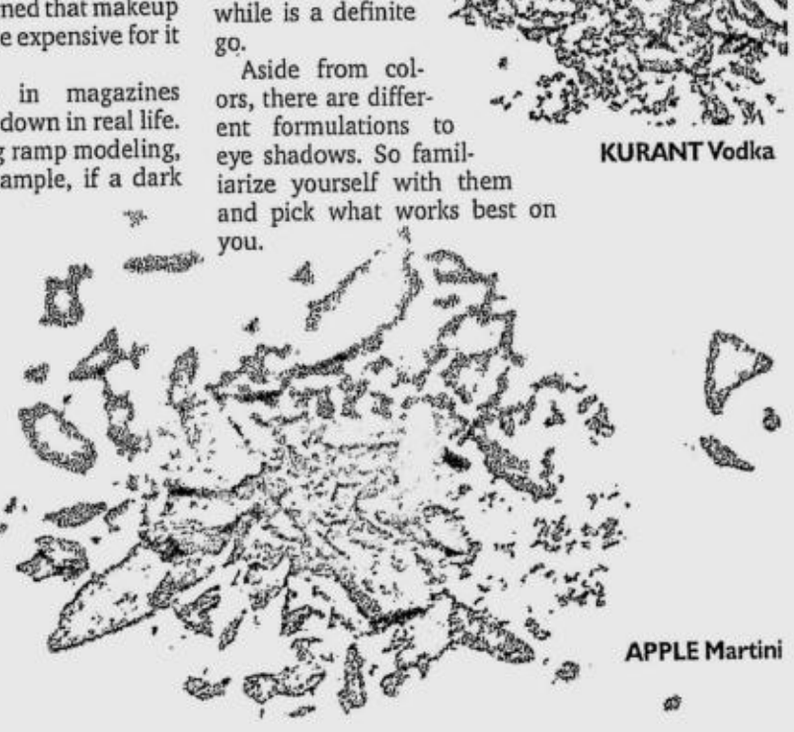
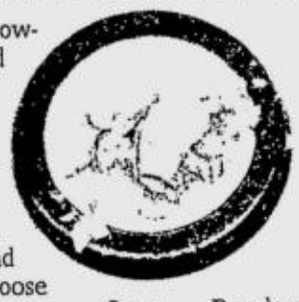

SCREWDRIVER


APPLE Martini

PRODUCTS STYLED BY RIA FRANCISCO-PRIETO
PRODUCTS SHOT BY CHITO VECINA
PICTURE OF DARIA WERBOWY FROM WWW.STYLE.COM

Powder



Pros: Some powders can be used either wet or dry. Powder is more lasting and easier to control since you use a brush. There is matte and iridescent to choose from. Mattes absorb light and therefore add depth, while shimmers or metallics deflect light and therefore bring out your lids. You may also use it as a highlighter.

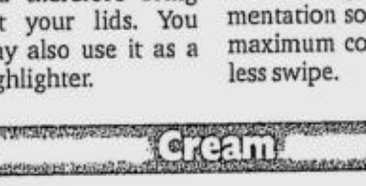
Cons: Powders can look cakey and may sit on your fine lines. Pick the ones that spread easily and are high in pigmentation so you get maximum color with less swipe.

Cream

Pros: Easy to use with your fingers, creams swipe smoothly and are best for people who have dry skin. The color is also subtle.

Cons: They may gather along creases, especially if you have oily skin. Be careful, too, about using excess eye shadow on your lids.

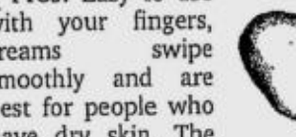
Pencil



Pros: These thick pencils are easy to use and may double as an eyeliner. You may also use them on your under-eye, since pencils give you more control.

Cons: Shades may be erased easily. Also, pencils take a toll on your skin because they tend to tug it. Plus, you need a sharpener.

Loose powder



Cons: It is advisable to put powder on your under-eye that you can dust off afterwards, since it may be messy to apply.

Pros: Matte or shimmery loose eye shadow produces a cloud of color. It can add drama because of its glitter flecks, subtly illuminating your eyes.

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Smoke gets in her eyes

MAKEUP that makes your eyes look bigger

By Barbi Chan
Contributor

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE IN MY earlier makeover, there are two types of the *chinita* or chinky-eyed look: the almond-shaped double-eyelid type, and the pure-blooded Asian eye—no crease, smooth surface, very small eyes. This type is usually the hardest to put on makeup because of the lack of space between the eyebrows and eyes.

The common mistake that we do is to create a "double-eyelid" effect. We draw a fake crease and try to do some highlighting to give the illusion of a bigger eye or of "Western eyes." This may look good from afar, but it is a different story if you take a closer look.

Our model Eira told me that she always has a hard time putting on makeup or having her makeup done because of

> The common mistake that we do is to create a 'double-eyelid' effect

her unusually small eyes. The makeup person either makes her eyes really dark or deprive it of color. I want to give her that look with natural yet big eyes.

Base. For sheer coverage, I used L'Oreal's True Match in Rose Sand. I applied it first under her eyes to conceal dark circles and then blended it downwards. I used minimal base because I want her skin to be appreciated.

Eyebrows. Her eyebrows, if you notice, are somewhat droopy and very sparse. I trimmed the outer ends a little to give the illusion of "lifted eyes." Then I extended her inner brows using light-brown eyebrow pencil.

Neutral colors

Eyes. I used neutral colors. For the eyeshadow base, I used Awake Stardom Liquid Color in Champagne. I started at the base of the upper lash and blended it upward to the brow bone. Then I used Maybelline Color Wear Trio Eyeshadow in Cappuccino.

This palette consists of three shades—brown, lilac and cream. I used the brown one and started at the base of the upper lash and blended it again up to the middle of the brow area. This will give the illusion of thicker eyelashes and bigger eyes.

After eyeshadow, I lined her eyes with a liquid eyeliner for that deep-set effect. In order for her to have that "opened eyes," I curled her lashes and applied a lengthening mascara. Nice one to try is Model Co. mascara in black.

Blush. Since the focus of her face is the eyes, I applied minimal blush on her. I wanted her to look very natural so I used a cherry-pink blusher. I started at the center of her cheeks and applied the blush on a circular motion.

Lips. I used a lip liner first to outline her lips since she has thin lips. Then I just added lip gloss in the middle.

Hair

Our model has always had long straight hair. I convinced her to have it permed and to cut her bangs for a youthful look. Fortunately after much prodding she agreed.

We women in general are so afraid to change their makeup and the way they dress. But how will we know what looks good on us if we don't even want to try?

Don't be afraid. Embrace the change. If it doesn't work out, at least you can always tell yourself you tried.

MAKEUP BARBI CHAN 0917-8460738
MODEL EIRA CAM

Solutions to formerly hopeless skin problems

THE ANSWERS TO certain beauty dilemmas might not have existed way back in 1997 when I started writing for PDI, but I would have you know that I had them filed at the back of my head until the much-awaited solutions were discovered.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

The common complaints without seeming solutions then were:

1. **Port wine stains**, big bright red birthmarks on the face, neck or other exposed areas that continue growing well after birth and, in some cases, may even impair the function of other organs
2. **Telangiectasias**, broken capillaries on the face and body (obvious red or purple veins) aka spider veins
3. **Rosacea** (red face), permanent red flush on face resembling a bad case of rashes, sunburn or even severe acne breakouts
4. **Stretch marks**, caused by post-pregnancy and sudden weight loss
6. **Red raised scars**, caused by trauma, burns or surgery.

For the ailments listed above, say hello to the Belo VBeam. It not only treats these effectively but does so with the most minimal of pain discomfort. It has this technology called DCD or Dynamic Cooling Device.

Simply put, a split second before the laser zeroes in on the area to be treated with, a cryogenic spray (extremely cold liquid) is dispersed on the spot as well as surrounding skin to prevent injury from the laser's heat and significantly reduce the pain so the experience is both pleasant and satisfactory.

For those concerned with possible scarring, the Belo VBeam produces an intense but gentle burst of light that selectively targets and destroys the root of the lesions without damaging the surrounding tissue.

PORT wine stain, before

PORT wine stain, after Belo VBeam

The Candela VBeam is gentle enough to use on infants as young as a few weeks old but strong enough to foil adult skin problems.

Note: With regard to the port wine stain, it is better to bring the person in as early as possible (infant or child) and not to wait till they get older and the lesion gets too big to control and starts impairing the function of other organs.

If you didn't find your skin concern's solution on the first part, don't give up just yet. Belo Medical Clinic has another laser machine like the VBeam that also cures the skin condition without damaging the surrounding skin tissue.

Hard-to-cure ailments

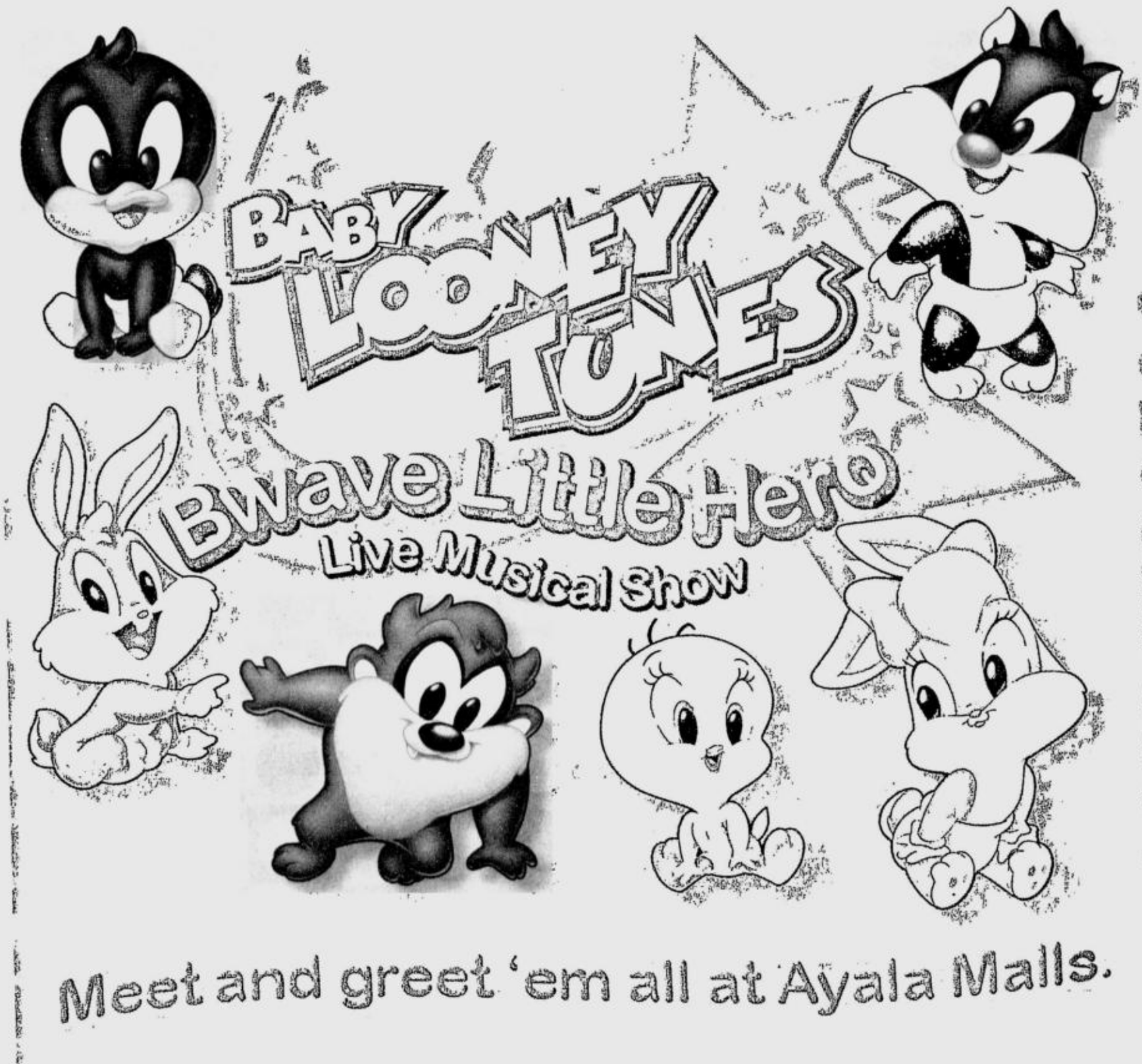
If Belo VBeam deals with eliminating the color red, Belo MultiClear brings color back into white scars or spots and scars. It deals with hard-to-cure skin ailments such as:

1. **Keloids.** The most letters I have are from men and women who are keloid-formers. For some reasons, Asians are very prone to this type of raised pale-colored and smooth scar. A former keloid sufferer myself, it is a relief to know that I now have a solution in case I scrape my skin or if ever I have to give birth via the Caesarian method in the future.
2. **Scleroderma**, hardening of the skin
3. **White stretch marks**
4. **Vitiligo**, the Michael Jackson skin disease wherein there are white spots that appear randomly on the body
5. **Psoriasis**, scaly patches on face or body.

MultiClear uses different wavelengths of narrow light band which have been proven to be the safest and most effective for treating the diagnosed condition.

The light units emit one of three suitable wavelengths to treat the condition in just a fraction of the time compared with more traditional and harsh laser treatments which burned the upper layer of skin. So the hypopigmented (white) areas are spot-tanned to even out the complexion.

For questions about the VBeam and MultiClear lasers, call 8442939.



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■ SUPER / C2
We've all heard from Edsa heroes, here's someone who wasn't there

■ NEWS / A2
Erap barricades self in San Juan hospital room

■ NEWS / A2
Rebellion charges filed against Gringo

■ BUSINESS / B1
Gov't sees 25% jump in income taxes; P401-B collection expected

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7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 79 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Saturday, February 25, 2006 ★★

Emergency rule spooks peso, stocks, friends, foes

By TJ Burgonio, Cynthia D. Balana, Philip Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

ALL IT TOOK WAS ABOUT FIVE MINUTES FOR President Macapagal-Arroyo to shake up the country's financial markets, the Roman Catholic Church and both Houses of Congress. That was the time it took her to read her announcement that she had declared emergency rule.

EMERGENCY/ A4

Kris, boyfriend James steal show in Ayala rites

By Tarra V. Quismundo

PEOPLE WHO WERE watching out for developments on Ayala Avenue yesterday were rewarded with a star-struck moment at 3:10 p.m.

As opposition leaders trickled in for the com-

KRIS/ A8

ROGER MARGALLO

JUST LIKE 20 YEARS AGO, yellow confetti rains on Ayala Avenue as ex-President Cory Aquino marches toward the Ninoy Aquino Monument to remind the nation that the journey to Edsa I began on the tarmac where her husband was martyred for democracy.

Rallies defy GMA order

JOAN BONDOC

'Conspiracy' triggers state of emergency

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Armand N. Nocum

CLAIMING AN ALLIANCE OF SOLDIERS, OPPOsition politicians and communist rebels were plotting to overthrow her, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday proclaimed a state of emergency and demanded obedience to all decrees and orders "promulgated by me personally."

In declaring the emergency, Ms Arroyo invoked a constitutional provision which empowers her to

FOILED/ A4

MALACANANG PHOTO

PRESIDENT ARROYO EXPLAINS THE WHY OF Proclamation No. 1017: "Systematic conspiracy" of the opposition in concert with leftists and rightists possibly with the aid of the national media.

Protests dispersed, 22 nabbed, charged

By DJ Yap, Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PUBLIC DEFIANCE MARKED THE state of emergency declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday, with street protesters scuffling with antiriot police and at least 22 of them arrested.

"We have so many ironies today, not least of which is the fact that in January 2001, we were on

PROTESTS/ A8

1017: Veiled warning to some segments of media?

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ANALYSIS

PROCLAMATION NO. 1017 EMbodies two topics. First, it represents the President's assessment of the national situation. Briefly, she sees Left, Right and Center "in tactical alliance and engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy to bring down the duly constituted government elected in May 2004."

She sees this conspiracy as recklessly aided and abetted "by certain segments of the national media."

Second, she puts down her re-

1017/ A6

Inside story: Senga refused to join coup

By Gerry Lirio and Fe Zamora

"SIR, THEY ARE ALL WAITING for you. Time to act."

That was Brig Gen. Danilo Lim talking to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga late Thursday night inside Camp Aguinaldo—on the eve of President Macapagal-Arroyo's disclosure about an alleged plot to unseat her involving soldiers.

Lim, head of the Scout Rangers Regiment based in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, was referring to at least three opposition groups gathered in three different areas in Metro Manila waiting for Senga to withdraw support from the President.

Stationed in Greenhills in San Juan, Quezon City, and in a southern Metro town, the anti-Arroyo leaders had waited for hours. By 2 a.m. yesterday, they received word that Senga had rejected Lim's overtures, according to opposition leaders privy to the meeting of the two generals.

INSIDE/ A6

THE PEOPLE

Last-ditch effort to mobilize

By Raymond Burgos

IT WAS ON THE fourth day of the Edsa revolution that the national democrats (NatDem) led by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and Bagong Al-

LAST-DITCH/ A18

FEB. 25, 1986 issue, the last day of the People Power Revolt.

Why Left left behind: Red leaders surprised, stuck to Maoist strategy

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

FOR THE MOST PART OF THE '70S AND THE first half of the '80s, the Left was at the forefront of the struggle to oust the Marcos regime.

At a cost of so many lives to its cadres and supporters, the Left organized various sectors for protests such as rallies, *welgang bayan* (general strike) and *Lakbayan* (long march) across the country while most of Marcos's political opponents from the padlocked Congress lay low or were in exile in the United States.

By early 1986, it is estimated that some 10 million people could be directly influenced, organized or mobilized by the Left through its legal and underground organizations, making it one of the most formidable foes of the Marcos regime.

But when the final push for the ouster of Marcos came, the Left is generally perceived as not the decisive force it was supposed to be.

Edsa I—the coup attempt that turned into an uprising—caught the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) flatfooted, its leadership unable to issue instructions to its forces.

WHY LEFT/ A19

Media fear censorship, intimidation

By Norman Bordadora and Daxim L. Lucas

MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS AND commentators warned yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of a state of emergency could usher in a new era of press censorship and intimidation as a regulatory body warned it would recommend closure of radio and television stations that broadcast reports which allegedly incite to sedition or rebellion.

"We're entering a period of censorship and intimidation never before seen since the 1970s and the 1980s," said Manuel L. Quezon III, a columnist of the IN-

MEDIA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2006

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers, while Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao which may cause flash floods and landslides.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/25/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

OAKWOOD MUTINY

Rebellion charges filed vs Gringo

By Armand N. Nocum

STATE PROSECUTORS FILED coup d'etat and rebellion charges against Sen. Gregorio Honasan before the Makati Regional Trial Court yesterday, hours after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the former soldier was among the first to be arrested in the wake of the President's declaration of a state of emergency.

The Department of Justice prosecutors recommended no bail for Honasan, who was specifically indicted for his alleged part in the failed July 2003 Oakwood Mutiny. Although the four-page indictment was dated Jan. 18, it was filed only at 4:20 p.m. yesterday.

Charged with Honasan were four retired military officers – Col. Ernesto Macahiya, Capt.Felix Turingan, Col. Virgilio Briones and Col. Romeo Lazo, all officials of Philippine Guardian Brotherhood Inc.

Also named in the charge sheet were members of Honasan's staff at the Senate identified as George Duldulao and Lina Reyes along with a number John and Jane Does.

"(T)he Oakwood mutiny is a component of a larger planned swift attack to grab power from the government ...(T)he evidence gathered by the AFP-PNP (Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police) established a conspiracy planned, executed and implemented through mass and clandestine recruitment of military and civilian participants," the charge sheet said.

HONASAN: No bail recommended

It said Honasan and his co-accused joined forces with the Magdalo mutineers in taking over the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati on July 27, 2003.

Honasan did not file a counter-affidavit to answer the charges before DOJ prosecutors despite an order issued by the DOJ for him to do so in February, the prosecutors said.

Erap barricades self in hospital

'I will not go with you. We will all die here,' he tells escorts

DEPOSED PRESIDENT ESTRADA barricaded himself inside his hospital room at the San Juan Medical Center after his police escorts tried to force him to return to his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, early yesterday morning.

In an interview with dzMM radio, Estrada said he was woken up at about 3 a.m. with a loud banging at the door by Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal, director of the Philippine National Police Security and Protection Office, and his men.

"I will not go with you. I will resist, we will all die here," the ex-movie actor quoted himself as telling Doromal.

Estrada said Doromal could not produce an order from the Sandiganbayan directing the police to return him to detention in Tanay.

He said it was the Sandiganbayan Special Division that allowed him to be taken to the hospital, and only the anti-graft court trying him on plunder and perjury charges could order him back.

Estrada said that after Doromal's attempt to take him, he decided to lock himself inside the hospital room.

Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta said he was informed that the PNP would no longer attempt to return Estrada to Tanay, until after his operation, or a court order was issued to that effect. He said the police would just secure Estrada inside the hospital.

Meanwhile, some 500 Estrada supporters surrounded the hospital to "protect the President" from his police escorts.

According to San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Estrada's son, they would not allow Estrada's escorts to "illegally" take him away.

Estrada was brought to the SJMC Thursday, after complaining of severe pain in his eye. He is scheduled for eye surgery and expects to remain in the hospital until Tuesday.

His doctor, Lorenzo Hocson, said the deposed leader would have to undergo surgery again to remove a cyst in one eye. About three weeks ago, Estrada underwent corrective surgery to remove excess skin in his eyelids.

SUPPORTERS of former President Joseph Estrada keep vigil outside the San Juan Medical Center where the deposed president is seeking medical treatment for an eye ailment RAFFY LERMA

In the radio interview, Estrada urged the people to fight for their rights. He claimed the government was curtailing his right to be heard.

He said the people should not stop in their quest for truth and for freedom from poverty.

He said he was now speaking out after his long silence because he could no longer bear the poverty that the people were suffering.

He said the people had had enough of the alleged corruption and irregularities in government. *Nelson F. Flores and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Security adviser tags Erap

By Nikko Dizon

NATIONAL SECUrity Adviser Norberto Gonzales yesterday alleged that former President Joseph Estrada had financed the foiled "military adventurism" that was aimed to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We know that he has given some money to this," Gonzales told reporters following a briefing of the members of the diplomatic corps at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) late yesterday afternoon.

"We think he (Estrada) gave money to (Army Scout Ranger Brig. Gen.) Danny Lim," Gonzales told reporters.

Lim was placed under the custody of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga early yesterday morning.

When asked what charges Estrada could face, Gonzales replied: "What do you need to charge President Estrada for? He's already been charged and he is detained."

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'La Niña' not so bad, says Pag-asa

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LA NIÑA PREdicted to hit the country in coming months would not be as severe as that of 1998 which caused flash floods that killed thousands of people and destroyed hundreds of millions of pesos' worth of crops, the weather bureau said.

All indications, including the late development of the climatic conditions and the amount of rainfall, show that the developing La Niña would be more like that of 1995, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"The 2005-2006 developing La Niña is more similar to the 1995-1996 La Niña... which suggests a very wet March-May 2006 period," Pagasa climatology chief Flaviana D. Hilario said.

La Niña is a term used by meteorologists to describe unusually cool sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean which spawn heavy rains. Changes in the atmospheric pressure for the Pacific, calculated by comparing air pressure between Tahiti and Darwin, Australia, are also linked to La Niña events.

"The current situation is different from past events. It's very uncertain in terms of impacts and implications... La Niña is developing so late in the year, which is very unusual," Hilario said.

Pagasa has warned that areas in the eastern seaboard would be hardest hit by the looming La Niña, among them Cagayan Valley, Isabela, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Agusan del Norte and Sur, Davao Oriental, Samar, Aurora, and the Bicol provinces.

On Friday last week, a mudslide caused by heavy rains in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte has already buried an entire village of 1,800 people.

The rains which drenched Mindoro, Palawan, Camarines Sur, Iloilo and Quezon in December last year have destroyed P508 million worth of crops and adversely affected some 300,000 families.

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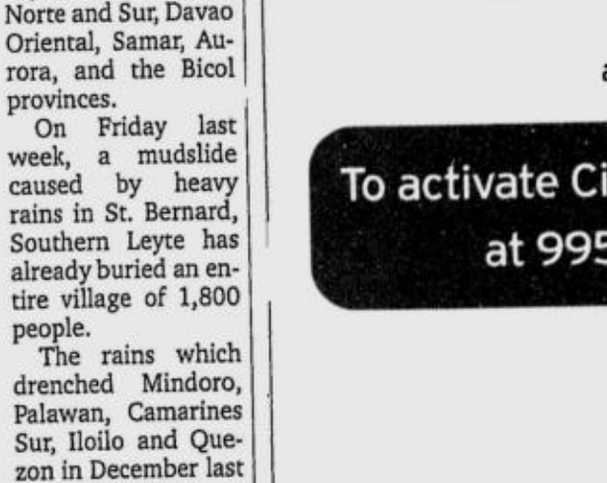
	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Mariano A. Solano, Jr. Lovely Marie	Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, Metro Manila	Gina Nini Acejo SS#33-3636612-7	July 24, 2005
2)	Remedios Agravante	954 Pinagbarilan, Pasay City	Jaime N. Agravante SS#03-1054349-3	January 7, 2006
3)	Imelda Anzures	Veteran Village/Iloilo Bottler's, Inc., Iloilo City	Celso P. Anzures SS#07-0578430-4	October 9, 2005
4)	Rosalie Medel	Unknown	Reynaldo Cambanhan SS#07-0906847-9	April 18, 2005
5)	Emma Conel Luis Cravanez, Jr.	Metro Manila	Luis M. Cravanez SS#07-0477067-8	April 12, 1998
6)	Marisol Dequino	Unknown	Manuel A. Dequino SS#06-0467168-6	May 20, 2005
7)	Charito Celis Enriquez	824 M. Delos Santos St., Mandaluyong City	Wilfredo G. Enriquez SS#03-3804382-3	January 28, 2005
8)	Eduardo Gasapo	Iloilo City	Ritchel S. Gasapo SS#33-0773389-9	September 26, 2005
9)	Celerina Esponilla Jaldo Liondro Esponilla Jaldo	83-A Retiro St., Q.C.	Joseph D. Jaldo SS#03-2710673-9	December 31, 2005
10)	Lenit Jawod	Unknown	Corazon Jawod SS#07-1256829-6	October 31, 2005
11)	Leores Palma	Iloilo City	Cora Jopillo SS#07-1122560-8	May 25, 2005
12)	Helen Tablque	Camachile St., Nagpayong, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City	Norberto Labalan SS#33-3870757-7	September 11, 2004
13)	Ruel Ungui Batlancila	Manila	Liza Labis SS#07-1648676-9	May 7, 2005
14)	Jovelyn	Saging St., Las Pinas, Metro Manila	Ireneo Lanquin, Jr. SS#07-0956109-9	January 11, 2005
15)	Ellezer N. Leoveras	Doña Juana Subd., Dampalit, Malabon City	Yolanda Leoveras SS#03-6693969-5	September 26, 2005
16)	Elsa Bisaya	27 Quirino St., Bo. Magsaysay, Tondo, Manila	Wilfredo O. Longcop SS#03-3093049-7	June 30, 2005
17)	Juan Paolo & Divine Grace Nepomuceno	Unknown	Celso R. Nepomuceno SS#03-1141933-5	August 25, 2005
18)	Erlinda F. Nitura	Bo. Bagong Silangan, Quezon City	Reymundo A. Nitura SS#03-2173046-0	August 30, 1999
19)	Dolores S. Pineda	Bicol	Teodorico Pineda SS#07-0475334-9	July 10, 2003
20)	Rosita Espalco	Unknown	Antonio B. Santos SS#03-0049324-9	December 12, 2005
21)	Teresa Quitlang	Unknown	Benito Sapigao SS#03-3652168-0	November 9, 2004
22)	Juana A. Serrano	B31 L9 Brgy. UBL, San Pedro, Laguna	Pedro A. Serrano SS#33-3303691-3	January 14, 2006
23)	Estelita Tibag	Unknown	Bonifacio Tibag SS#07-0588759-9	May 6, 2005
24)	Patricia L. Tuano	B1 L 16 Cordillera St., Country Homes, Muntinlupa City	Manuel C. Tuano SS#03-1409091-3	October 21, 2004
25)	Victor Venal	Libon, Sariaya, Quezon	Gloria Cabaysa Venal SS#03-3423998-7	April 16, 2004
26)	Daisy Vera	Unknown	Julius M Vera SS#03-6533262-0	January 1, 2005
27)	Gonerosa Villacruzos	Tabid, Ozamis City Metro Manila	Primitivo C Viernes SS#08-0565205-1	June 27, 2004

— Nothing Follows —

(PDI - February 25, 2006)



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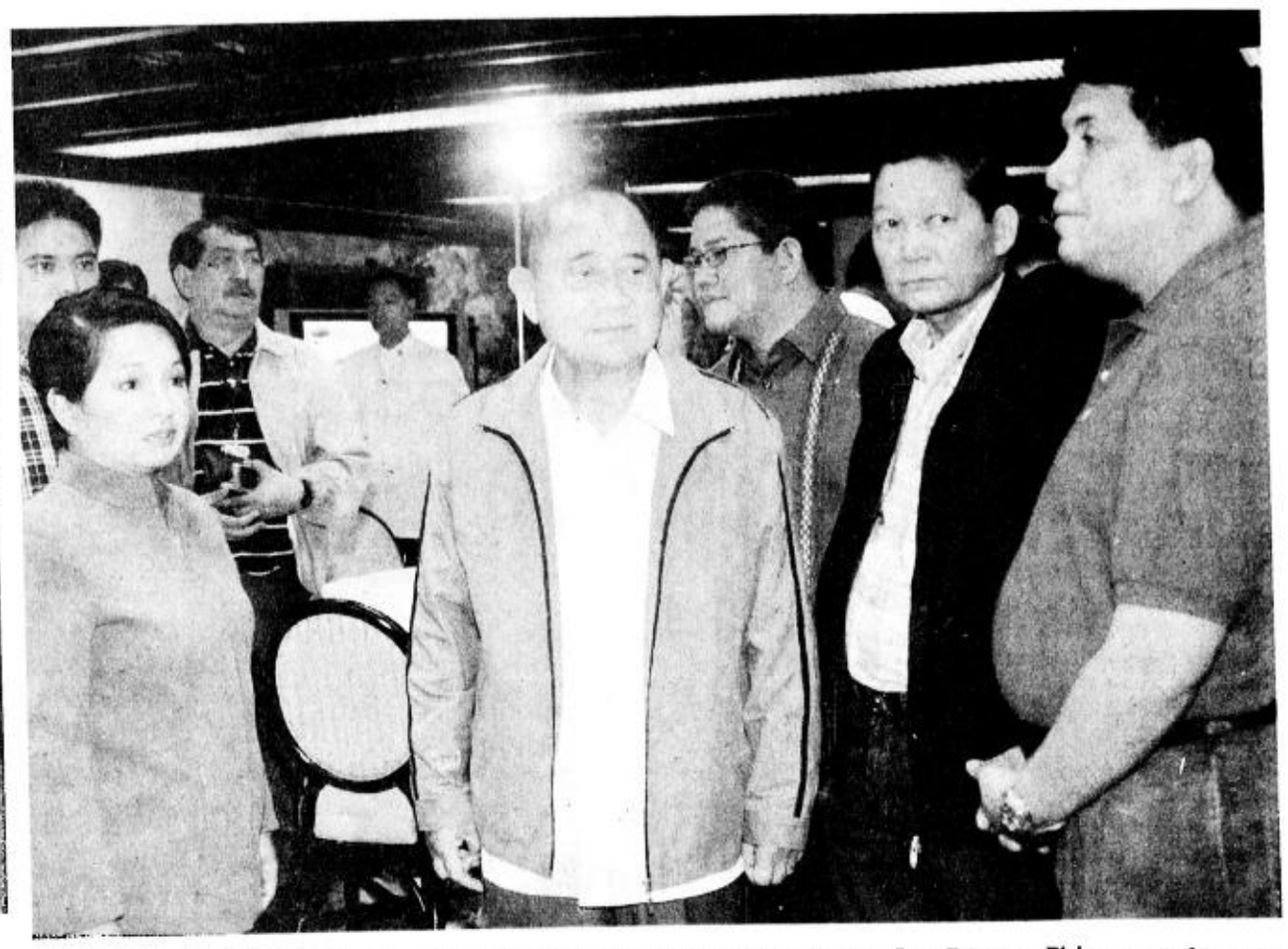
ONLY A MONTH AGO, President Arroyo and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, head of the elite Scout Rangers Regiment, were on talking terms during her visit in Laur, Nueva Ecija. AP



ROOTERS at the Palace include House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay. MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Foiled coup prompts state of emergency

From page A1

temporarily take over public utilities or businesses imbued with "public interest," including the media.

The President appeared on television to announce Proclamation No. 1017 after a long night during which an aide said she went without sleep so she could talk with her close military and civilian advisers and preside over an emergency Cabinet meeting at 2 a.m.

Neither Ms Arroyo nor her advisers gave any proof to back her contention that the political opposition, "military adventurists" and communist rebels were working together to unseat her.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said arrest orders had been issued against "eight to 10 individuals, including military officials, politicians and civilian financiers."

In hiding

He said they were believed to have all gone into hiding.

"There is evidence that (former President Joseph) Estrada is part of the coup plot," Defensor said.

He said that Estrada had been in contact with Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, head of the elite Scout Rangers regiment who had been placed in custody for allegedly enticing soldiers to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

"We will offer that at the proper time," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said when asked what proof Malacañang had to back Ms Arroyo's allegation of an unholy alliance among her political opponents, soldiers and the communist New People's Army.

Calibrated action

"This is no time for proving," Gonzalez added. "Go to the Supreme Court. Question this and we will offer the proof."

"What am I to prove to you? You are not the court," he said in reply to an INQUIRER question.

Gonzalez did not rule out warrantless arrests under a state of national emergency since this could be done even without such a proclamation.

But he said the Palace would "calibrate" its actions.

"It can't be that we will arrest and just arrest," he said.

Gonzalez told the INQUIRER that the state of emergency was just "standby power that the President can make use of when the necessity arises."

Plot thwarted

"It's just a notice to the whole world that I have this power and I will use it if necessary," he said.

Taking over a facility "will depend on the need on public interest," he said.

Gonzalez said under the emergency, the President has "additional powers if she will exercise them."

In her address to the nation, Ms Arroyo at one point said the plot had been thwarted but indicated later that the supposed conspiracy could still be active.

Warning to plotters

"Some had tried to break out of the Armed Forces chain of command ... and establish a regime outside of the Constitution. We have broken up this plot," she said in Filipino.

But she also said: "This is my warning to those plotting against the people. For your treachery, the full force of the law will fall on you."

Ms Arroyo signed the proclamation after meeting with the National Security Council attended by top Cabinet and military officials in Malacañang.

The President cited Section 18, Article 7 of the Constitution which empowers the President to "call out (the) Armed Forces to prevent or suppress rebellion..." and Section 17 Article 12 of the Charter authorizing her to "temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

"USUAL SUSPECT?" Col. Ariel Querubin, Marine brigade commander in Lanao del Sur. PDI PHOTO

Orders and decrees

Ms Arroyo ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines "to maintain law and order throughout the Philippines, prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence as well as any act of insurrection or rebellion, and to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

Media warned

She said: "Over these past months, elements in the political opposition have conspired with authoritarians of the extreme Left represented by the NDF-CPP-NPA and the extreme Right, represented by military adventurists—the historical enemies of the democratic Philippine state—who are now in a tactical alliance and engaged in a concerted and systematic conspiracy over a broad front to bring down the duly constituted government elected in May 2004."

Saying these alleged conspirators had hurt the Philippine economy, she turned on the media.

"The claims of these elements have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media," she said.

In a briefing, Malacañang officials warned that newspapers, radio and television stations faced risks of being taken over by the government if they aired interviews of rebel soldiers and communist insurgents. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

"If, for example, anonymous callers, speaking on behalf of the other group, will be called by media without basis, then that would be enough basis for the government to intervene," Defensor said.

"Clearly, that is a probability based on the order," said Defensor. "This is an abnormal situation. Media has a critical role in this situation."

"[Closing down a media outfit] depends on how it (an interview) will be carried out. We hope at this point there will be no interviews that will be put out relating to the extreme Right and Left in the present situation," said Defensor.

Palace guidelines

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the government might come up with guidelines that would lay down the rules on how media should treat interviews with communists and adventurist soldiers.

"We respect the freedom of the press but we expect this freedom to be exercised more responsibly," Bunye said.

Malacañang later announced cancellation of all programs and activities related to the 20th anniversary of Edsa "People Power I" revolt.

No crackdown yet

Gonzalez explained that what was being cancelled were political rallies "which are actually there for purposes of destabilization."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita issued General Order No. 5 to implement Proclamation No. 1017.

"In gist, it directs the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the face of the national emergency, to maintain public peace, order and safety and to prevent and suppress lawless violence," Bunye said.

Talking later with Department of Justice reporters, Gonzalez said there were no existing plans to arrest media persons and take over media agencies critical of the Arroyo administration even if the "national media" had been cited in the proclamation as among those helping fan destabilization.

"*Wala* (None). That's not in the works," he said.

Honasan, Montayre

Gonzalez also revealed that they were contemplating on arresting former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, former civil society leader Linda Montayre, pro-Erap militant leader Ronald Lumbao and businessmen financing destabilization moves against the government.

Gonzalez denied there were any immediate plans to take over key industries.

Open-ended

"We have to calibrate our actions there. We have to take into consideration its effect on the economy itself. This is no kamikaze (law)," he said.

Asked how long Proclamation No. 1017 will last, Gonzalez replied: "This is open-ended ... depending on the judgment call of the President. But we have to take into consideration the public interest, until situation so requires."

Emergency rule spooks peso, stocks, friends, foes

From page A1

Markets slumped across the board yesterday and investors braced for more political turmoil this weekend.

The peso fell to 55.20, its lowest level in nearly four weeks, from Thursday's close of 51.56, prompting the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to intervene, dealers said.

Share prices retreated by 21.39 points to its lowest in more than two weeks while Philippine sovereign bonds weakened.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco said they are watching developments in the foreign exchange market.

"We are watching market developments," Tetangco told reporters.

Philippine Stock Exchange president Francis Lim expressed hope for a quick and peaceful resolution to the political situation for the sake of the stock market and the country.

Ms Arroyo imposed emergency rule which allows arrests without warrants and an extension of detention without charge.

"With the imposition of the state of emergency in the Philippines, not only will foreign investor sentiment take a hit, at least for the near term, but most of the other factors that were supporting the peso could also fade temporarily," Swiss bank UBS said in a report.

Friday's level was the peso's lowest closing level since Jan. 30 when it traded at 52.25.

"What the alleged coup failed to do, in terms of weakening the peso, the President managed to do with the declaration of a state of emergency," said Joseph Tan, regional economist at Standard Chartered Bank.

The stock market traded lower for most of the session, with selling more intense following the President's announcement, but bargain hunting limited the day's fall.

The composite index ended down 21.39 points to 2,069.93. Losers swamped gainers 99 to six.

Cardinal's concern

Senior Roman Catholic church leaders expressed concern over the President's declaration of a state of emergency.

"It doesn't look good if our government declares a state of emergency," said Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, who was promoted to cardinal by the Vatican this week.

"This could be a big provocation from among the contending parties to use violence," he said in a statement.

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said he hoped the state of emergency would not last long and there would be no violations of human rights.

Crossing party lines, senators yesterday slammed Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

"Now is the time for all peace-loving citizens to end Gloria's running amuck with our democratic values," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said. "There's absolutely no basis except her lust for power," he said.

'Grave doubts'

"This is a sad day for democracy," Sen. Jamby Madrigal said.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and his mother Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito warned that the declaration could be a prelude to a "pseudo-dictatorship."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, and Senators Manuel Roxas II and Pia Cayetano also expressed alarm over the proclamation.

"We have grave doubts about the factual basis for the actions provided by Proclamation No. 1017. We therefore demand its revocation," they said in a joint statement.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon belittled Proclamation No. 1017, saying it would not provide the President extra powers to suspend the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law.

"There can be no warrantless arrests unless a crime is being committed in the presence of our law enforcement agencies. Our courts are still functioning," he said.

Drilon vowed to challenge the state of emergency at the Supreme Court.

But administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the declaration was "constitutionally justified."

"President Arroyo's proclamation of a state of national emergency is the equivalent of calling out the Armed Forces. The Constitution allows this to prevent or suppress lawless violence," Santiago said.

Big blow

Former President Joseph Estrada said a government that is fearful of its people exercising their right to peaceful assembly and free speech has no right to govern.

"The intention of this proclamation is doubtful in the light of the growing public sentiment questioning the legitimacy of Mrs Arroyo's presidency," he said.

The Hyatt 10, former Cabinet members who resigned in July, said the declaration was the biggest blow to democracy and further exposed Ms Arroyo's desire to hold on to power.

Vice President Noli de Castro, who was in Cavite when the state of emergency was declared, said he recognized the right of the President to issue the declaration.

Former President Fidel Ramos, however, refused to comment on the declaration.

His public relations and media consultant Ed Malay said that Ramos would address these issues at 7 a.m. today during the flag-raising ceremony at the Edsa Shrine.

Former Sen. Loren Legarda said the declaration showed the "desperation of an administration not sure of its legitimacy."

In a press statement, Loren appealed to the President, the police and the military to "respect the human rights and civil liberties of the Filipinos."

Former Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig said the political crisis would end soon. "This was also the situation in the past. We see the dynamics of people power so we at RAM have decided to come out."

The House minority believed that Ms Arroyo in effect placed the entire country under martial law when she declared a state of national emergency.

Warrantless arrests

Rep. Francis Escudero of Sorsogon pointed out that Proclamation No. 1017 authorized warrantless arrests and even takeover of public utilities and media outfits.

"That is not provided for under the law just by declaring a state of emergency," said Escudero in a phone interview.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, Ms Arroyo's former national security adviser, said the declaration was an "acceptance" by Malacañang that it was in trouble.

As expected, the House majority supported the declaration of a state of emergency.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. said the President's decision was "justified" to minimize the damage to the country and the economy of the power-grabbers.

But Rep. Jose Solis, chair of the House national defense committee, cautioned Malacañang against effecting warrantless arrests and taking over public utilities and even media facilities.

"They (police) can't just arrest people. There must be due process," said Solis, a retired military officer.

Oriental Mindoro Rep. Alfonso Umali Sr. said he hoped the President would realize that what she did was wrong.

In Lucena City, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday said Ms Arroyo was "digging her own grave" with her declaration of the state of emergency.

"It would only unify the fragmented opposition," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Nelson F. Flores, Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Bobby Q. Labalan, Romulo O. Ponte, Michael B. Jaucian, Madonna T. Virola, Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Joanna Los Baños, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Reuters, AFP*

Roof uncovered not buried school

GUINSAUGON, SOUTHERN LEYTE — A roof uncovered after a massive landslide was not that of a buried school full of children, as had been hoped.

"It is not the school," a disappointed Air Force Capt. Roman Diso told the Agence France Presse.

"We thought it was, from the description we were given," he said.

The roof emerged from the muck on Thursday, raising the hopes of desperate relatives that it was the school building where over 240 schoolchildren and staff were buried in the Feb. 17 landslide in the village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town.

On Thursday night, provincial governor Rosette Lerias said aerial photographs showed "very clearly" the roof of what many thought was the village elementary school, which has been the focus of the search for a week.

The disaster has sparked a massive international relief operation with teams from at least seven nations involved, including a delegation of United States Marines.

Rescue workers waded through mud to get to the site while others were flown in by helicopters, winched down to the roof.

Only corpses

Twenty-two people were pulled out of the landslide within hours, but only corpses have been found in succeeding days. The death toll has reached 131 with 938 people missing and believed dead.

At the base camp set up near the site, relatives have been sifting through the piles of personal effects which have been collected from the buried village.

The head of the rescue effort, Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, said that a number of people had been flown by helicopter to the site but geologists have warned that the whole area is "very unstable and very dangerous."

A US Chinook helicopter rescued seven members of Taiwan's rescue team after they became trapped by the shifting mud Thursday, shortly before rescue efforts were halted for the day.

Not exact site

Despite the help of geo-technical experts and sophisticated probes, rescue workers had been unable to locate the exact site of the school where many officials had held hope that someone might still be alive inside.

Several rescue officials have said for days that no one could still be alive under soil and rocks which is about 30 meters thick in a few places. The landslip covered an area of some 9 sq kms.

A series of false or unconfirmed reports have bolstered the fading hopes of relatives that someone might be alive since the village was wiped off the map a week ago.

Forensics center

The government has set up a forensics center to try to identify unclaimed corpses through fingerprints and dental records.

No one could say how long it would take to unearth the school, believed to have been swept off its foundations by hundreds of tons of rock and mud.

Plans by US Marines to install a two-ton chired drill, capable of penetrating up to 60 meters at the presumed school site, were delayed when supports were found to be missing.

Rescue workers took advantage of clearing skies yesterday, launching their biggest operation so far at the site of the landslide, the US military said.

Hundreds of US Marines and other rescue workers were digging with picks and shovels in the mud covering the farming village, said US Navy Cmdr. Manuel Biadog, a Filipino-American chaplain assigned to Marines based in Okinawa, Japan.

Biggest so far

"Today's operation is the biggest so far. Right now, it's old-fashioned digging because the ground is so soft," said Biadog.

He said better weather after days of heavy brain h: l allowed workers to step up their efforts, but said they were not using an earth mover and other heavy equipment because the ground was too unstable and more landslides were feared.

"We are concerned that an area at the top of the mountain is receding," Biadog said. Helicopters were on standby to pull out any endangered diggers.

500 diggers

Philippine Army Lt. Col. Raul Farnacio said 400 to 500 diggers were at the site.

Recovery teams acknowledged that the likelihood of more trapped survivors of the disaster was remote. No survivors have been found since hours after Guinsaugon was buried Feb. 17 in mud up to 35 meters deep. The official death toll stood at 129 with another 938 missing.

"We all don't have much hope, but we are not giving up yet," said Benjamin Hong, head of a Taiwanese group of rescue workers.

The teams planned to check what is believed to be the roof of an elementary school that has been the focus of search efforts. It was spotted in aerial photographs far from what was believed to have been its original site.

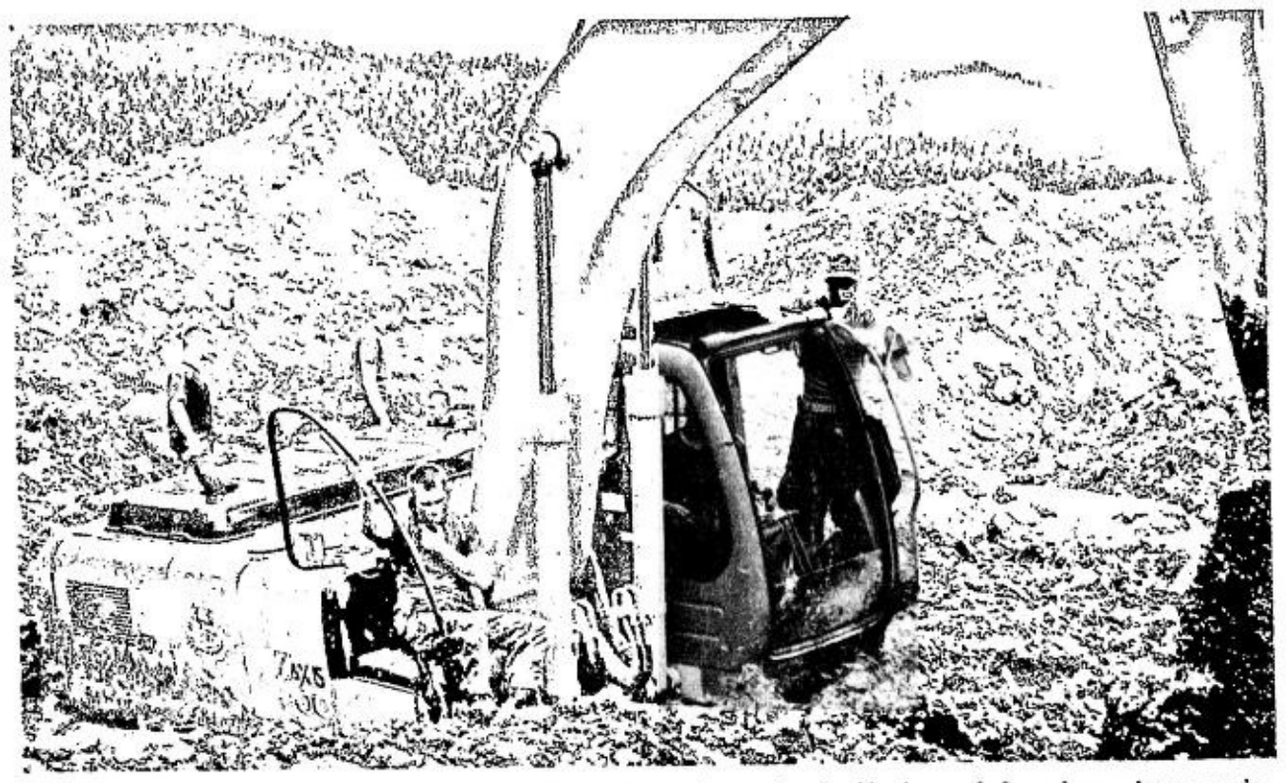
The school was the target of the rescue efforts from the start because of unconfirmed reports that survivors had sent mobile phone text messages from inside shortly after the landslide.

Wall of mud

Officials have speculated that the wall of mud, boulders and trees from the collapse of a nearby mountainside could have swept the school away. More than 240 students and teachers were inside.

The area where the roof was found hasn't been explored because the mud is so wet. Rescue workers headed to the area yesterday despite the risks involved. Pockets of water on what's left of the mountain could caus e more landslides.

Much of the mud throughout the 40-hectare landslide zone remains unsettled, especially after the continued rains. *AFP, AP*



US MARINES resume search operations as a earth-moving equipment is mired in the mud after a heavy downpour in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte Friday. REUTERS

Lawyers question, Gonzalez cites legal basis for 1017

By Armand N. Nocum

THE INTEGRATED BAR OF THE Philippines will question before the Supreme Court the legality of Proclamation No. 1017 even as the justice department justified its issuance as a move to "preempt hostile forces" out to topple the government.

In a telephone interview, IBP president Anselmo Cadiz said his group would question the constitutionality of the proclamation before the high court, saying that it was Congress that has the authority to declare a state of emergency.

"The President cannot just declare a state of emergency, Congress should do it," Cadiz said.

He said that as commander in chief, the President should have only used the "Articles of War" provision to deal with the rebellious soldiers, if that was the basis of issuing Proclamation 1017.

Worse than Marcos

"She is worse than Marcos because Marcos, when he declared martial law, had it ratified by the Supreme Court," Cadiz said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said, however, that the Supreme Court cannot review the proclamation.

"I don't think the Supreme Court will meddle in that ... It appears to me that this particular provision refers solely to the power of the President to declare [a state of emergency]," he said in a telephone interview.

He said the basis for Proclamation 1017 was Article 12 of the Constitution, which states that: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the state may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

Gonzalez said a state of national emergency was different from martial law where the Constitution gives the Congress and the Supreme Court powers of review.

Vicente Mendoza, a retired Supreme Court associate justice, yesterday warned that the proclamation could create a situation of warrantless arrests, which the courts may not be able to check.

"There is only one important legal constitutional issue that to my mind is important in declaring a state of national emergency: Did the President suspend the writ of habeas corpus or declare martial law?" he said.

According to Mendoza, the President has two powers: to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and declare martial law.

That she did not go to the next step of either suspending the writ or declaring martial law was what was causing confusion, he said.

Lawyer Frank Chavez denounced Proclamation No. 1017 as unconstitutional and a sign of "creeping military rule."

To declare a state of emergency, the President should be authorized by a law enacted by Congress and that law should recognize the existence of a national emergency and specify the duration of her exercise of her powers, Chavez said.

Gonzalez said the state of national emergency was declared because of a coup plot hatched by military and police officials which was uncovered late Thursday.

Inside story: Senga ...

From page A1

And before daybreak yesterday, Senga announced in a television interview that he had placed Lim under his custody. Senga's move followed reports that the one-star general had planned to break out of the chain of command.

Two other INQUIRER sources, including a senior officer, said that Senga was "initially open" to the idea of a military withdrawal of support for Arroyo but changed his mind after talking to Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Asked by a reporter if it was true that he initially was open to such a rebel plan, Senga said: "That's not true."

Marines Col. Ariel Querubin was also present in the meeting between Senga and Lim, according to the sources, who were privy to the meeting.

The sources said that after the meeting, Esperon went to see Querubin at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio and saw Marines "in formation" and apparently ready to move out.

Tension rose after Esperon ordered Army soldiers to surround the Marines but the standoff was resolved without a single shot being fired, the sources said. The standoff occurred at 3 a.m. yesterday.

Rebel by heart

Why Lim, promoted to brigadier general only last April, was bold enough to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo didn't come as a surprise to both Senga and soldiers "supportive" of the opposition cause.

"General Lim is a rebel at heart," according to one of his friends who was with him during the early days of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement in 1986, which paved the way for the ouster of the late Ferdinand Marcos in February 1986.

Senga had also been "receptive" to suggestions from the opposition and from retired generals for a dialogue, said former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat.

The anti-Arroyo forces awaiting results of the Senga-Lim meeting Thursday night included a former Army general, three ex-Constabulary generals, a former congressman, an ex-provincial governor, a resigned government lawyer and a "jueteng" whistle-blower, according to INQUIRER informants involved with the group.

No bloodshed

These people find Lim a respectable soldier, even if some of them have called him a Johnny-come-lately in the movement, according to former Ambassador Roy Señeres.

Lim first met with the anti-Arroyo critics late in July at the peak of the "Hello Garci" controversy involving alleged rigging of the 2004 presidential election results.

He was reportedly sympathetic to their cause, but refused to lead any move to oust Ms Arroyo.

But like the retired generals, Lim didn't want to have Ms Arroyo removed by a bloody military uprising, Señeres said.

Lim reportedly told the group that at 50, he was the youngest of the current crop of generals and he might not be the best person to convince Senga and the service commanders to turn their backs on Ms Arroyo.

He instead mentioned retired Col. Voltaire Gazmin, head of the Presidential Security Group under former President Corazon Aquino, according to the INQUIRER sources.

Señeres later arranged a secret meeting between Lim and Gazmin. While they knew each other, Lim and Gazmin had avoided seeing each other. Lim was one of the perceived leaders of the December 1989 failed putsch against Aquino.

Gringo, Gazmin

Like former Sen. and ex-Army Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who was once detailed in Fort Magsaysay, Lim and Gazmin are well regarded by the members of the 7th Infantry Battalion in Nueva Ecija.

Gazmin was one of the unit's commanders during the Marcos administration.

The two officers kept quiet after Aquino reiterated that she would not support any coup against Ms Arroyo.

Still, the retired Constabulary generals kept on meeting with Lim, emphasizing it was within the framework of the Constitution for soldiers to withdraw support from the President because they owed their allegiance not to her but to the people.

"General Lim may not be as brilliant as (Commodore) Rex Robles, but he is very intelligent, having graduated with flying colors from the West Point," said Robles's wife, Marilyn.

Survey favorite

Soon, other opposition leaders expressed interest in meeting Lim.

In September, Lim, along with Señeres, former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos and Jesuit lawyer Fr. Joaquin Bernas, among others, emerged in a survey among junior officers and foot soldiers as a top favorite to lead a movement against Ms Arroyo.

In October, Lim reportedly agreed to support the anti-Arroyo forces, provided that these forces take to the streets first before they abandon their command. The Constabulary generals welcomed Lim's statement, but continued to persuade him to take a more active role.

Another INQUIRER source said that during the conversation with Senga, Lim declared his plan to "lead a group of soldiers in a march with the people in Edsa where he also intended to withdraw his support from the Arroyo administration."

But later in the conversation, Senga talked to Esperon who convinced Senga to remain loyal to Ms Arroyo and take custody of Lim and Querubin, according to the source.

For blurting out his plans, Lim was relieved of his post as chief of the Scout Ranger Regiment.

Querubin, commander of a Marine brigade based in Lanao del Sur, opted to report to the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Senga yesterday cleared Lim and Querubin of involvement in a military attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo.

"There is no coup," Senga said. "But there is an attempt by some soldiers to join the people in the protest rallies," he said.

Lim and Querubin were involved in the attempt by the Young Officers' Union (YOU) to unseat President Aquino in 1989.

Querubin, a 1979 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and Medal of Valor awardee, said he had not been relieved or placed under arrest.

What's it? 'No coup, power grab'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Norman Bordadora, Alcuin Papa and Luige A. del Puerto

WAS THERE A COUP ATTEMPT against President Macapagal-Arroyo, as certain officials are saying, or not?

Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, a founder of the defunct Young Officers Union (YOU), was relieved as commander of the Army 1st Scout Ranger Regiment late Thursday night after meeting with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

At dawn, top AFP officials were on TV claiming that with the arrest of Lim, they had thwarted a defection.

Even so, Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency before noon. An hour later, top defense and military officials were hard-put to justify the declaration.

"I'd just like to state that the [AFP] was able to preempt some illegal actions by some officers, and the situation now is under control," said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

It was Cruz's first time to sit down with the AFP chief of staff and the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force in a news conference.

"There were some attempts to commit illegal actions, [which] we prevented through dialogue with those concerned. The [AFP] leadership and the unit commands down the line are in full control," Senga said.

Not organized group

Earlier in the day, Senga was emphatic in denying a coup attempt.

"This is not a coup [d'etat] or a power grab," he stressed as he announced Lim's arrest shortly before 6 a.m. "It was an attempt, a reported plan by some misguided elements in the AFP, to join protest actions and withdraw support from the President."

But minutes earlier, Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said they had thwarted a coup plot.

Senga said he had put Lim under his custody.

"[Lim said] his personal beliefs led him to withdraw support from the President ... I told him we will put him under arrest," Senga said.

He said he came to learn about Lim's plan to lead his men in joining the protest rallies and withdrawing support from the President after they met Thursday night.

He said they discussed "various issues affecting the [AFP]."

Senga said that apart from Lim, no other officer or soldier, even those from Lim's unit, had been brought in for questioning.

"I think we can say that this is not an organized group. This is an action of an individual officer. He has convinced some people to go with him in his intention," Senga said in a news conference around noon.

Contradictory statements

But earlier in the day, Senga said Col. Ariel Querubin, commander of the 1st Marine Brigade based in Marawi City, was also under investigation in connection with the supposed defection plan.

A military spokesperson even said Querubin had been likewise relieved, along with Lim and Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force.

But the military took back its statement about Querubin's relief after the Marine Corps protested that he was not involved in the alleged withdrawal of support.

Querubin had also once been part of the YOU that mounted the 1989 coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino.

Lim was promoted to star rank last year, making him, at 50 years of age, the youngest general in the service.

Querubin, a Medal of Valor awardee, was given command of the 1st Marine Brigade last year, replacing Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, who has retired, and who is under court-martial for testifying on supposed election irregularities.

Both Senga and Esperon said they had no reason to suspect Lim's loyalty earlier.

Senga said the President would not have promoted Lim or given him command of the 1st Scout Rangers Regiment if she had doubted his loyalty.

Senga admitted that Lim did not directly tell him about the planned withdrawal of support.

He said he learned about Lim's intention from "other reports coming from different sources."

Preemptive measure

"After the session, we parted ways and we learned that he was pushing through with his planned action," Senga said.

'Give details'

Senga expressed the belief that the supposed threat had been neutralized.

Asked why the President still needed to declare a state of emergency, Cruz said the emergency powers were a preemptive measure.

Rex Robles, a plotter of several coup attempts against President Aquino, urged Ms Arroyo to disclose the details of the current supposed plot lest she be suspected of using the perceived military crisis for her own benefit, and to quash the scheduled rallies to mark the 20th anniversary of Edsa I.

Robles, a retired commodore and one of the members of the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, said that while all announcements on the alleged plot were coming from the government, there seemed to be a dearth of specifics.

In a talk yesterday with reporters in the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Colonel Querubin denied being part of the supposed coup plot.

Looking sullen and dazed, Querubin said: "I did not go into hiding. I was always here at headquarters. I did not withdraw support. We are always for the chain of command. Even our troops in Marawi, I have been telling them for a long time to follow the chain of command."

He also said he was not under arrest or under the custody of the Marines: "I am free to move around."

Denials

Querubin, a 1979 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, confirmed that Senga called him and Lim to Camp Aguinaldo at around 8 Thursday night.

He said they were called on the basis of reports that they were to withdraw their support for the administration and join yesterday's rallies on Edsa.

"We explained that we are with the chain of command," he said.

He denied earlier reports that he and Lim had tried to convince Senga to likewise withdraw support from the government.

But Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, Army spokesperson, said Querubin and Lim did ask Senga to withdraw support.

In response, Bacarro said, Senga told the two officers that he would be "violating [his] mandate as AFP chief of staff" if he did so.

Querubin is on vacation for the period Feb. 20-28: "My wife told me, 'Let's have a [Valentine] date.' But we are on red alert."

Explaining why he relieved Franco as chief of the combat-seasoned Special Action Force and named Chief Supt. Silverio Alarcio Jr. as replacement, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said: "There are persistent reports of recruitment in [Franco's] unit, and I'd like to investigate him and to validate this report."

1017: Veiled warning to certain media?

From page A1

sponse to the disturbing situation.

Her response is based on two constitutional provisions: Article VII, Section 18 and Article XII, Section 17.

Article VII, Section 18 enumerates the three specific commander in chief powers of the President—martial law power, power to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and the power to call on the Armed Forces to prevent or suppress "lawless violence, invasion or rebellion." She specifically focuses on her power to call on the Armed Forces to "suppress rebellion." I take this to mean that, in her view, rebellion is afoot.

The scope of the power of the President to call on the Armed Forces under Section 18 has been dealt with by the court in earlier cases. The Supreme Court will not easily contradict the President's action because "the factual necessity of calling out the Armed Forces is not easily quantifiable and cannot be objectively established since matters considered for satisfying the same is a combination of several factors which are not always accessible to the courts ...

Certain pertinent information might be difficult to verify, or wholly unavailable to the courts.

In many instances, the evidence upon which the President might decide that there is a need to call out the Armed Forces may be of a nature not constituting technical proof. On the other hand, the President as commander in chief has a vast intelligence network to gather information, some of which may be classified as highly confidential or affecting the security of the state."

It would therefore be pointless to challenge the propriety of her call on the Armed Forces. What can be challenged are actions taken by her either personally or through the Armed Forces. However, in situations of great disturbance, challenges to governmental action are rarely resolved during the period of disturbances.

'Continuing crime'

What of warrantless arrests? Warrantless arrests of persons caught in flagrante delicto or "caught in the act" are constitutionally allowed. Moreover, rebellion, which the President has significantly cited as a foundation for her action, is considered in jurisprudence a "continuing crime;" that is, one who is involved in rebellion is deemed to be always actually committing rebellion even when asleep and hence may be roused out of bed without a warrant.

What of rallies and demonstrations? The Constitution recognizes the authority of the state to prohibit rallies and demonstrations which present a clear and present substantive danger to public peace. But again the challenge to a ban on rallies is rarely resolved at a time when resolution is needed. The wrong is righted late.

Disturbing

The second foundation of Proclamation 1017 is Section 17, Article XII. I find this disturbing for two reasons.

Section 12 says: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest." This provision is a child of martial law. It is not clear who is empowered to exercise it—the President or Congress? It first entered the Constitution after President Marcos declared martial law. In other words, he could exercise it because he had martial law powers then and could exercise legislative power. President Arroyo has not declared martial law. She only has executive power and not legislative power.

The second reason for my finding this disturbing is that Section 17 embodies the power to "temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest." But she omits this clause in her proclamation. Rather, she only uses Section 17 to claim the power to declare a national state of emergency. Does this truncated use of Section 17 tell us that her real intention is to announce the existence of national emergency and thereafter surprise public utilities with a takeover? Is this a veiled warning to "certain segments of the national media" that she has the power to take them over?

As I write this piece, things are still very fluid. As they usually say, *Abangan!*

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US urges GMA to uphold rule of law, protect rights

THE UNITED STATES YESTERday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to uphold the rule of law and protect civil liberties after she imposed a state of emergency to quell an alleged coup attempt.

Washington also urged more than 100,000 Americans living in the former US colony to "take prudent steps to ensure their personal safety during this uncertain time," US embassy spokesman Matthew Lussenhop said in a statement read on national television.

"The US government is monitoring the situation in the Philippines very closely," the embassy said.

The President declared a "state of national emergency," invoking powers to use the military to quell a rebellion and to take over public utilities if necessary, after the government detained several people including a general who it said withdrew his support for Arroyo, the commander-in-chief.

"We call on the Government of the Philippines and the Filipino people to respect fully the rule of law, protect civil liberties and human rights, and reject violence," the US statement added.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said he briefed the diplomatic corps to explain the actions undertaken by the Arroyo government.

"The members of the Diplomatic Corps appreciated this briefing and have strongly indicated their support for President Arroyo and the democratic institutions of the Republic of the Philippines," Romulo said in a statement.

Aside from the United States, Australia and Hong Kong also issued advisories urging their citizens to exercise caution when travelling to the Philippines.

"We assured them that the due process and human rights would be protected," Romulo said at a press conference following the briefing that lasted for nearly an hour at the DFA building in Pasay City.

When asked for his opinion on the declaration of the state of emergency, Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz told reporters: "That's something that is an internal matter of the Philippines. We consider we have no say in it. We think that we have been given assurances by our government that they will have special care of the observance of the human rights. There is nothing for us to say. We just hope that the situation clarifies immediately and we wish the best to the constitutional role of the Philippines."

Sagaz said that Romulo transmitted "a message of calm to all of us that they (government) have control of the situation."

"The diplomatic corps has reacted very positively to this information and we see that the situation is under control. We are very grateful to this," Sagaz said.

Among the other prominent dignitaries who attended the late afternoon briefing were US charge d'affaires Paul Jones, Papal Nuncio Franco, Chinese Ambassador Li Jin Jun, and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki.

In a well-attended meeting, Romulo said he furnished the diplomatic corps with copies of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 to form part of their report to their respective capitals. Reports by Nikko Dizon and AFP

We surrounded Rangers—Palparan

By the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk

ARMY TROOPERS UNDER MAJ. GEN. JOVITO Palparan helped prevent Scout Rangers under suspected renegade Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim from leaving Camp Tecson in San Miguel, Bulacan, on Friday.

"My men have surrounded them," Palparan, commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, told the INQUIRER on Friday.

Aside from Camp Tecson, he said, his division also had the upper hand over Scout Rangers stationed at the division's Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

"I have talked to them and there is no threat from them," he said.

For his part, Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, head of the military's Northern Luzon Command, said that aside from controlling the movements of Lim's men, the Nolcom also arrested two Army officers who were recruiting for the Magdalo mutineers.

Tolentino said the two soldiers, whom he declined to identify, were arrested on Wednesday and turned over to the Philippine Army's national headquarters.

Tolentino said he deployed several tanks to Camp Aguinaldo on Friday morning after intelligence reports confirmed that Lim, commander of the 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, was moving his troops to join a rally at the Edsa Shrine.

Tolentino said Lim chose to join the rally on a "personal decision."

He said Maj. Gen. Benito Ramos, chief of the Scout Rangers, has sworn in Col. Reynaldo Mapagu as Lim's replacement. Tolentino said the situation was "not that serious."

He said it was "normal" for Nolcom to be on red alert every time there were "activities at the national level," such as those related to the 20th anniversary celebration of the Edsa I Revolt.

Tolentino said more than 10,000 troops belonging to Nolcom's 5th and 7th Infantry Divisions based in Isabela and Nueva Ecija, respectively, were intact and not making any unauthorized movements.

On Friday, the council of commanders of nine Philippine Air Force units based in Clark and Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, held an early morning meeting.

Maj. Gen. Fernando Manalo, council head, said their troops were "intact" and "remained under the chain of command."

Troops based in Clark and Basa Air Base comprise 70 percent of the PAF's strength, Manalo said.

He said two OV-10 attack helicopters remained parked at the Haribon complex of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport and could fly out only on his or on orders of PAF chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

Soldiers and policemen maintained checkpoints in the region's main thoroughfares, especially the North Luzon Expressway and the MacArthur Highway. The police in Camp Olivas went on full alert on Thursday.

Danilo Francia, chair of the Clark International Airport Corp., said DMIA security measures were augmented.

He added that important facilities like the airport tower, terminal and navigational aids were secured on Friday and that PAF troops and the police were on standby to lend additional security in case of "escalated threat."

Policemen secured Clark's main gate as some 100 activists from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan prepared to hold a protest rally there.

Bayan members in Bulacan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija were to hold similar rallies, undaunted by the emergency order by Ms Arroyo, Bayan regional chair Roman Polintan said. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, Anselmo Roque, Carmela Reyes, Ansbert Joaquin, Cesar Villa and Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Villamor Visaya Jr., Melvin Gascon, Errol Abrew, Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Papal nuncio bids RP goodbye

By Leila B. Salaverria

OUTGOING PAPAL NUNCIO ANTONIO Franco yesterday bid the Philippines farewell in a thanksgiving Mass at the Manila Cathedral held in his honor, but promised to keep the country in his prayers.

In his remarks after the Mass, the nuncio thanked the Catholic Church leaders, saying his memories of the Philippines would remain in his heart.

"In every church and every diocese, you have made the utmost to make the representative of the Holy Father feel the vitality of the local church, and the enthusiasm of the local church," Franco said. "Be sure that I will give you my prayers every day."

Franco, who was sent by the Vatican to the country in 1999, is expected to be assigned to Israel and Cyprus next month.

His successor has not been named.

In his homily, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales asked the dnuncio to pray for the country.

"We wish you the Lord's Blessings, even as we ask for your prayers for our country in its seemingly endless search for unity, justice and peace," Rosales said.

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SENSING THE DIFFERENCE

RYAN LIM

TO HONOR EDSA I's 20th anniversary, people go to Edsa on Friday only to be turned away at the corner of Santolan by PNP dispersal units after security say they had foiled a coup attempt. RYAN LIM

TEARS OF ANGER: A woman rallying near the Edsa Shrine is at her wits end after dispersal but the cops are unmoved. RAFFY LERMA

Protests dispersed, 22 arrested

From page A1

the same march on Edsa, and she (Ms Arroyo) was at the Edsa Shrine, waiting for us to give her the presidency. And now she's stopping us," said University of the Philippines professor and INQUIRER columnist Randy David shortly before he was arrested by policemen in plainclothes.

David, along with Akbayan president Ronald Llamas and lawyer Argee Guevarra, was taken in a green Toyota Corolla sedan (plate number WJU-141) to Camp Karingal, according to Akbayan media officer Percy Sendaña.

The three were charged with illegal assembly and inciting to sedition, but were released early last night.

In Makati City at 7:30 last night, a phalanx of antiriot police took demonstrators by surprise and succeeded in pushing them away from the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, where former President Corazon Aquino had earlier addressed them.

Shocked

The violent dispersal of the daytime mass actions shocked Aquino, who was catapulted to the presidency by the February 1986 People Power uprising that toppled Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

"This is really shocking," The Associated Press quoted Aquino as saying. "It's really a pity to lose our democracy again."

In an ambush interview after her speech, Aquino, now 73, called on the people to continue to press for Ms Arroyo's resignation.

She said the threat of arrest would not stop her, adding that she went through a lot during the Marcos dictatorship.

"I have faced more dangerous situations a long time ago," she said. "We cannot just stay silent because that is what happened during martial law."

Aquino said the President was spoiling the spirit of the Edsa celebration by declaring a state of emergency.

Asked whether she believed that Ms Arroyo was worse than Marcos, she said: "You be the judge." But she urged the people not to allow things to culminate in martial law.

Aquino also said she was prepared to face the consequence of her act and incur the anger of Ms Arroyo.

She appealed to the military and police to heed their conscience and do what they think would be good for the people.

Martial law

Early in the afternoon, a sea of blue-uniformed policemen swooped down on some 10,000 demonstrators led by the militant coalition Laban ng Masa in what some described to be a throwback to martial law.

The demonstrators had massed mid-morning at the Quezon Memorial Circle before heading toward Edsa. They were stopped past 2 p.m. by baton-wielding cops at the foot of the Santolan flyover.

Negotiations between the police and the demonstrators took more than an hour, until Quezon City police chief Nicasio Radovan Jr. gave them five minutes to disperse.

The protesters, led by Laban ng Masa chair and former UP president Francisco Nemenzo Jr., David and Akbayan Rep. Risa Baraquel, said they would exercise their constitutional right to peaceable assembly.

David, Guevarra and Llamas sought a meeting with Radovan away from the frontlines, but they were arrested by police.

Nemenzo said the arrests reminded him of martial law.

"Laban ng Masa condemns the arrest of its leaders and calls on the people to defy Gloria's Marcosian-style emergency rule through civil disobedience," said Nemenzo.

"We're all convinced that [the declaration of a state of emergency] is illegal," he said.

In an interview shortly before his arrest, David said Congress, and not Ms Arroyo, had the power to declare a state of emergency.

He said he did not recognize Ms Arroyo as President, but only as a politician who "stole the election and fooled the people."

Dispersal

Minutes later, police numbering at least 1,000 sprayed the crowd with a high-pressure fire hose and began shoving and pushing.

Some of the demonstrators pulled back and scattered toward the Cubao area.

Police used wooden batons on those who remained, but some fought back by throwing stones.

Some 20 demonstrators, many of them women, were arrested and brought to Camp Karingal in a container truck.

About 50 others, including Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza, were injured, said Bobby Diciembre of the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

Three members of human rights groups, including Sr. Cres Lucero of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, joined those arrested to safeguard their rights.

Ten of those arrested were Kilusang Pambansang Demokrasya-Pampanga members, two were from Mariveles, Bataan, five were from Sanlakas, while five were from the urban poor sector, a KPD information officer said.

Baraquel said Ms Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency was the "ultimate betrayal of Edsa."

"We urge all peace- and freedom-loving Filipinos to join the only democratic institution that has not betrayed us—the parliament of the streets. Now is the time for enduring People Power," she said.

Palace go-signal

In Makati, the dispersal of the broad opposition's anti-administration rally had the go-signal of Malacañang, members of the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan quoted Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio as saying.

Bayan's large contingent, which had marched to Makati after earlier being dispersed at the Edsa Shrine, were given until 7:30 p.m. to wrap up its program.

The speeches had already ended and the demonstrators were ready to go when the 400-strong antiriot team, armed with shields and truncheons, marched toward Ayala Avenue to push them away.

The crowd was made up of activists, the middle forces, progressive Church leaders and personalities from the political opposition.

"We should be thankful that we have [Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay] here. Because of him, we have a place to freely hold movements like these," said Aquino, who led the wreath-laying ceremony at her late husband Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino's monument.

Binay's United Opposition (UNO), of which he is president, had earlier announced that yesterday's activity would be a reenactment of the "confetti revolution" in Makati after Ninoy Aquino's assassination in 1983.

At 4 p.m., the gathering swelled when the large Bayan contingent arrived.

By then, according to the police estimate, the crowd had ballooned to 10,000.

Long march

"After we were dispersed starting at around 11:30 a.m., we marched through San Juan, and then passed through Mandaluyong, which was the hardest, because they are not exactly that friendly," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes.

"Then we passed through the residential areas ... There was an outpouring of support for us," Reyes said.

Makati's office workers, standing on the sidewalks and peering out of their office windows, cheered as the contingent marched toward the Ninoy Aquino Monument, where they aimed to merge with UNO's smaller crowd, mostly composed of Makati residents and city employees.

"*Sigaw ng bayan* (The people's cry): People Power!" the activists chanted, drawing applause from those on the sidelines.

Confetti rained down from time to time from the office buildings on Ayala, a show of support for which the activists expressed gratitude over their loudspeakers.

While they were initially barricaded by a line of antiriot policemen with truncheons and shields, the group was finally allowed to push to the Ayala-Paseo intersection at 5:25 p.m.

At that time, police Director Vidal Querol was still on "wait-and-see" mode.

"I watch, and then let's see what [we] can do," said Querol, chief of the Metro Manila police.

Police had positioned about 1,000 antiriot cops in Makati alone, a senior official said, adding that another group of cops blocked the Bayan group in Mandaluyong.

Referring to the dispersal at the Edsa Shrine, Querol told ANC television that police had "liberated Edsa and given it back to the thousands of motorists."

Unstoppable

At the Edsa Shrine, about 3,000 demonstrators carried red banners demanding the President's ouster.

They braved the intense heat for almost two hours, gathered in front of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel—the site of two massive uprisings that ousted two Presidents.

They seemed unstoppable, but had to yield to at least 700 policemen and soldiers armed with shields and truncheons.

"We will leave. But we will not abandon our stand," Bayan's Reyes told the crowd.

They spent some time in front of the La Salle Green Hills high school before marching toward Makati.

But the prelude to the peaceful dispersal was violent, with antiriot policemen pushing a segment of the crowd.

"They started throwing stones and sticks at our policemen. They were becoming unruly, so we had to contain them," Mandaluyong Police chief Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez said, referring to the segment of the crowd that had gathered near the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration building.

Guingona

To further push the demonstrators away from the corner of Ortigas Avenue and Edsa, which by then had jammed traffic in all directions, fire hoses were trained on them.

Officials claimed that at least three cops were hurt. Protest leaders said three of their members were injured.

The tension was eased when former Vice President Teofisto Guingona walked through the crowd shortly before noon and spoke on stage.

"This is a peaceful gathering. We are not doing anything wrong. This is our right," Guingona said.

He later spoke with police officials, promising that the demonstrators would disperse voluntarily after their program. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana, Luige A. del Puerto and Jerome Aning*

Media fear censorship, intimidation

From page A1

QUIRER.

Quezon said he didn't think arrests of critical members of the media would be made in the next few days although another INQUIRER columnist, University of the Philippines Prof. Randy David, was arrested while participating in a march commemorating the 20th anniversary of the People Power uprising. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Much worse

The state of emergency "may not result in a lot of arrests ... but it will result in something much worse—intimidation," Quezon said.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said it had received information that the military had been coordinating with some media outfits for soldiers to stand guard at their premises supposedly to protect their facilities.

"This, we think, is an attempt to frighten the media," said NUJP spokesperson Jose Torres, a freelance journalist who also writes for GMA 7's online news service.

"The great concern here is if we find ourselves threatened and intimidated so as to toe the government line; that's the big problem," Torres added in an interview.

Earlier, the head of the National Telecommunications Commission told the INQUIRER that he wanted to see "balanced reporting" from broadcasters when covering the events surrounding the alleged coup attempt which Ms Arroyo cited as the reason for her proclamation.

Grave concern

"We'd like them to cooperate," NTC Commissioner Ronald Solis said.

The Philippine Press Institute (PPI) said in a statement it viewed "with grave concern" what it described as the government's "attempts to curtail the citizenry's constitutionally guaranteed rights, including the right of free expression and the right to assemble peacefully to seek redress of grievances."

PPI president Amado P. Macasaet said the revocation of permits to hold rallies and police threats to arrest people involved in the alleged anti-Arroyo plot were "naked assaults on civil liberties (that) should be condemned."

He said the duty of the media was "to report as truthfully as we could, guided by our best lights" and "nothing will bar us from pursuing our duty."

Solis spoke to the INQUIRER before meeting with representatives of various broadcast media.

He said fears of a government crackdown on the media were unfounded and described as "OA (overacting)" suspicions of eventual curtailment of press freedom.

He said circulars had already been distributed to broadcast media organizations in the past outlining what they could and could not do during periods of emergency.

"No misinformation," Solis replied, when asked if the media would be sanctioned for airing interviews with alleged coup plotters or those branded by the Arroyo administration as "destabilizers."

In particular, he said broadcast outfits should refrain from airing statements from parties that "incite to sedition" or those that are "rebellious" in nature.

Guidelines

Should the crisis escalate into a military confrontation, Solis said the media would be prohibited to broadcast details of movements of troops loyal to the government.

"They cannot reveal troop movements, tactical information, or [air] propaganda," he said.

TV and radio stations violating these guidelines would face closure, as well as criminal and administrative charges.

Kris, boyfriend James steal show in Ayala rites

From page A1

memoration of the 1986 Edsa People Power revolution at the Ninoy Aquino Monument, the country's most-watched show biz couple arrived, spurring a mad rush from a mob of media people and fans.

Television personality Kris Aquino and boyfriend James Yap quietly joined the crowd at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati at a little past 3 p.m. to take part in wreath-laying ceremonies at the monument of Kris' father, the martyred Benigno Aquino Jr.

But the moment their presence was noticed, media people and a handful of fans excitedly surrounded the pair like a police barricade.

Where opposition politicians who had arrived earlier failed to stir the crowd to action, Kris and her fiancé were able to pull bystanders off the sidewalks, rushing en masse to where they were to catch a glimpse of and click away with their camera phones at the high-profile couple.

Staying cool

Unmindful of the frenzy she was causing, Kris, who was wearing jeans and a yellow polo shirt, solemnly bowed her head in prayer, holding a rosary.

The outspoken and excitable game show host uncharacteristically exuded calm.

Beside her, Yap, who is a star forward of the Purefoods basketball team, would glance at his fianceé every now and then.

The couple, who recently announced plans to marry, came to honor Kris' father, whose assassination in 1983 inspired the nation to rise up against the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, culminating three years later in a bloodless uprising that ended more than 20 years of dictatorial rule.

Kris had a message for people in the media.

"All of us who work in media, we're lucky we have the freedom now. We need to protect the freedom given to us," Aquino said, as microphones, recorders and cell phones were thrust at her face.

Aquino's mother, former President Corazon Aquino, was the central figure in yesterday's commemoration. The former President, now among the strongest voices calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo, led an anti-Arroyo force of some 10,000 protesters in a march to her late husband's monument.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iraq on the brink as violence kills 130

BAGHDAD—SECTARIAN VIOLENCE KILLED more than 130 people across Iraq and left dozens of mosques damaged or in ruins as the United States appealed on Thursday to Sunnis and Shiites to step back from the brink of civil war.

A day after a suspected al-Qaida bombing devastated one of the holiest Shiite shrines and sparked the two days of revenge attacks, President George W. Bush stepped into the worst crisis since the US invasion, one that threatens efforts to form a stable, unity government and bring US troops home from Iraq.

After dark, residents heard heavy clashes around Baghdad.

Government sources said a curfew would be imposed in the capital and surrounding provinces on Friday to avert violence.

Keeping crowds away from rival mosques on the Muslim day of prayer could be a major test for Iraq's new security forces.

"The voices of reason from all aspects of Iraqi life understand that this bombing is intended to create civil strife," Bush said as the military reported seven more US soldiers had been killed in two separate attacks on Wednesday and American forces in Baghdad adopted a low profile.

He praised Iraqi leaders' public efforts to maintain calm.

The UN envoy also stepped in, asking Iraqi leaders to join him in a meeting: "I have invited political, religious and civil leaders to discuss confidence-building measures to ensure the situation remains under control," Ashraf Qazi told Reuters.

But the main Sunni political group said it had pulled out of US-backed talks on forming a coalition following December's parliamentary election and leading clerics traded unusually frank sectarian criticisms that may do little to calm passions.

President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, pressed ahead despite the Sunni boycott with a meeting that he had called to avert a descent toward a civil war. After talks, he told a televised news conference that if all-out war came "no one will be safe."

Among the dead were 47 people, apparently both Sunnis and Shiites, whom gunmen dragged from vehicles after they attended a demonstration to show cross-sectarian solidarity near Baghdad.

Official accounts of the incident were otherwise vague, however.

After dark, residents of Baghdad's Talbiya district heard gunfire and explosions from apparent clashes involving a Sunni and a Shiite mosque situated close to each other. And residents near Salman Pak, southeast of the capital, said black-clad Shiite militiamen were attacking Sunni neighborhoods.

Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr called on Iraqis to form a Sunni-Shiite committee to end the violence. *Reuters*

Roof over Moscow market collapses, killing 57

MOSCOW—RESCUERS, PAUSING frequently to put their ears to the rubble to listen for signs of life, pulled scores of corpses out of a mass of concrete planks and metal beams after the snow-laden roof of a Moscow market collapsed.

At least 57 people were killed and 32 injured in the early Thursday morning collapse, Emergency Situations Ministry spokesperson Irina Andriyanova said Friday.

Virtually all the victims were believed to be workers from Azerbaijan and other former Soviet republics, among the thousands who have poured into the Russian capital to fill low-paying jobs such as those at the city's produce and housewares markets.

The probable cause was either the buildup of heavy snow, design flaws or maintenance errors, Moscow Prosecutor Anatoly Zuyev said. Prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation on charges of negligence leading to deaths, the RIA-Novosti news agency reported.

One of the survivors, Ukhtai Salmanov, a 52-year-old herb-seller from Azerbaijan, said he left the market just before the roof gave way around 5 a.m.

"I heard a loud noise and I fell to the ground and lost consciousness. When I came to, I was lying by the entrance," Salmanov said. *AP*

RESCUE personnel search for survivors the scene of a collapsed market building in Moscow Feb. 23. REUTERS

Dubai firm to delay US ports takeover

WASHINGTON—A UNITED ARAB Emirates company has offered to delay its takeover of most operations at six US ports to give the Bush administration more time to convince skeptical lawmakers the deal poses no security risks.

The surprise announcement Thursday relieves some pressure from a standoff between President George W. Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress, which has threatened to block the deal because of concerns over the UAE's purported ties to terrorism. Immediate reaction on Capitol Hill was mixed.

Under the offer coordinated with the White House, Dubai Ports World said it will agree not to exercise control or influence the management over US ports pending further talks with the Bush administration, Congress and local port authorities. It did not indicate how long it will wait for these discussions to take place.

The Dubai-based state-owned company said it will move forward with other parts of the deal affecting the rest of the world.

"It is not only unreasonable but also impractical to suggest that the closing of this entire global transaction should be delayed," Dubai Ports said in a statement.

"The reaction in the United States has occurred in no other country in the world," the company's chief operating officer, Ted Bilkey, said in a statement. "We need to understand the concerns of the people in the US who are worried about this transaction and make sure that they are addressed to the benefit of all parties. Security is everybody's business." *AP*

British police arrest 2 suspects in record $87-M heist

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE hunting a gang of armed robbers who stole up to a record 50 million pounds ($87 million) from a security depot arrested two people on Thursday suspected of involvement in the heist.

Police said a 29-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman were arrested in connection with Tuesday's armed raid on the Securitas main cash depot in Tonbridge, southeast England, thought to be Britain's biggest robbery.

The pair were being held in separate locations in Kent, the region where the crime occurred, and questioned on suspicion to commit robbery, police said.

Adrian Leppard, assistant chief constable of Kent police, said the arrests "were significant and directly related to the investigation" into the raid that netted at least 20 million pounds (29 million euros, $35 million).

However, Leppard told reporters in Maidstone, Kent, that the exact amount would not be known until forensic work was complete, warning: "It could be as high as 40 million, or even 50 million."

Leppard said more than 100 police officers were hunting the gang of "callous" armed robbers and that an unprecedented two million pound reward was being offered for information as to their whereabouts or identities.

All British ports and airports have been put on alert for anyone attempting to leave the country with large sums of cash while CCTV images of the gang's white delivery lorry was released to help track those responsible down.

"We know this for a fact—this is organized crime at its top level. It was planned and executed with military precision," he added.

He said Kent Police had the manpower, resources and wherewithal to find the robbers. *AFP*

FBI objected to Gitmo tactics

WASHINGTON—FBI OFFICIALS raised repeated objections to aggressive interrogation tactics at the US "war on terror" prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including some they said were approved at high levels of the defense department, documents released Thursday show.

The documents—a series of internal FBI e-mails and memos—trace a dispute that arose as early as November 2002 over military interrogation tactics at Guantanamo, also known as Gitmo, and resurfaced in 2004 in the wake of the Abu Ghraib scandal.

FBI officials said they raised their objections with Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the commander of the Guantanamo task force, arguing that the aggressive tactics were ineffective and unreliable. In their e-mail, the FBI officials also noted the "uncertain" legality of the tactics.

But Miller appeared "biased" in favor of the tactics used by interrogators of the Defense Intelligence Agency-Defense Humint Service, they said.

The documents do not spell out what tactics the FBI objected to, and at least one FBI official emphasized in e-mail messages that he knew of no credible allegations of abuse at the military-run detention center.

But the e-mails allude to controversial interrogation practices that either were witnessed by special agents at Guantanamo or contained in interrogation plans that they had seen.

About 500 detainees are currently held at the prison in a remote corner of a US navy base.

"Our Behavioral Assessment Unit (BAU) disagreed with the use of specific techniques in the case of (redacted) as they opined that the techniques would not be successful and they could produce unreliable results," said an e-mail message May 4, 2004 from an unidentified official.

The recipient, whose name was blacked out, responded, "I can think of two specific examples (of abuse) ... You may want to talk to BAU about (redacted) and (redacted) in GTMO."

In an e-mailed reply the following day, the unidentified official cautioned that there was a distinction between "allegations of abuse and the use of techniques which fall outside of FBI/DOJ (Department of Justice) training and policy."

"As it relates to (redacted) and (redacted) the techniques employed against them in the interrogation process were, based on numerous inquiries I made, in addition to my personal review of the DoD interrogation plans, approved by the Deputy Secretary of Defense."

The deputy defense secretary at the time was Paul Wolfowitz, now head of the World Bank. *AFP*

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Nigeria city burns its Muslim dead

ONITSHA, Nigeria—AT LEAST 80 people were killed when Christians turned on Muslims living among them in a southern Nigeria city, a rights group said Thursday, while in the north Christians turned to the army for refuge against reprisals.

The city's dead in Onitsha, mainly Muslims, were burned on bonfires of blazing tires. On a drive around the town center, reporters saw at least nine more corpses to add to 19 they had found on Wednesday scattered by the road.

"We counted 60 bodies on Tuesday and 20 on Wednesday and there could be more," said Emeka Umeh, head of the local chapter of the Lagos-based Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), adding "most of the victims are Muslims."

"It was a great massacre that should be condemned by any right-thinking person," he told AFP. "Even now, bodies can still be found on Upper Iweka road," which is home to the predominantly Christian Igbo people.

"The police should not relax. What we have now is graveyard peace," Umeh added, saying the victims were slain "with machetes, knives, metal objects, clubs and in some instance, even guns."

Most ethnic Igbos returned to work in bustling and traffic-choked markets, walking by the smoldering bodies without a second glance, having disposed of evidence of the massacre as far as they could be bothered.

Far across Nigeria in Katsina, some 7,000 Igbo people were holed up in military barracks and police stations for fear of vengeance by the mainly Muslim Hausa people of the north for the sectarian slaughter in the south.

"We are afraid we could be attacked by Muslim youths in the city who are angry with the riots in Onitsha," Chinedu Okafor, a 34-year-old motor spare parts dealer, told an AFP reporter in an army barracks.

"We feel unsafe living in the town because our homes and businesses could be targets of reprisal attacks. Most Igbos living in the city have moved here." *AFP*

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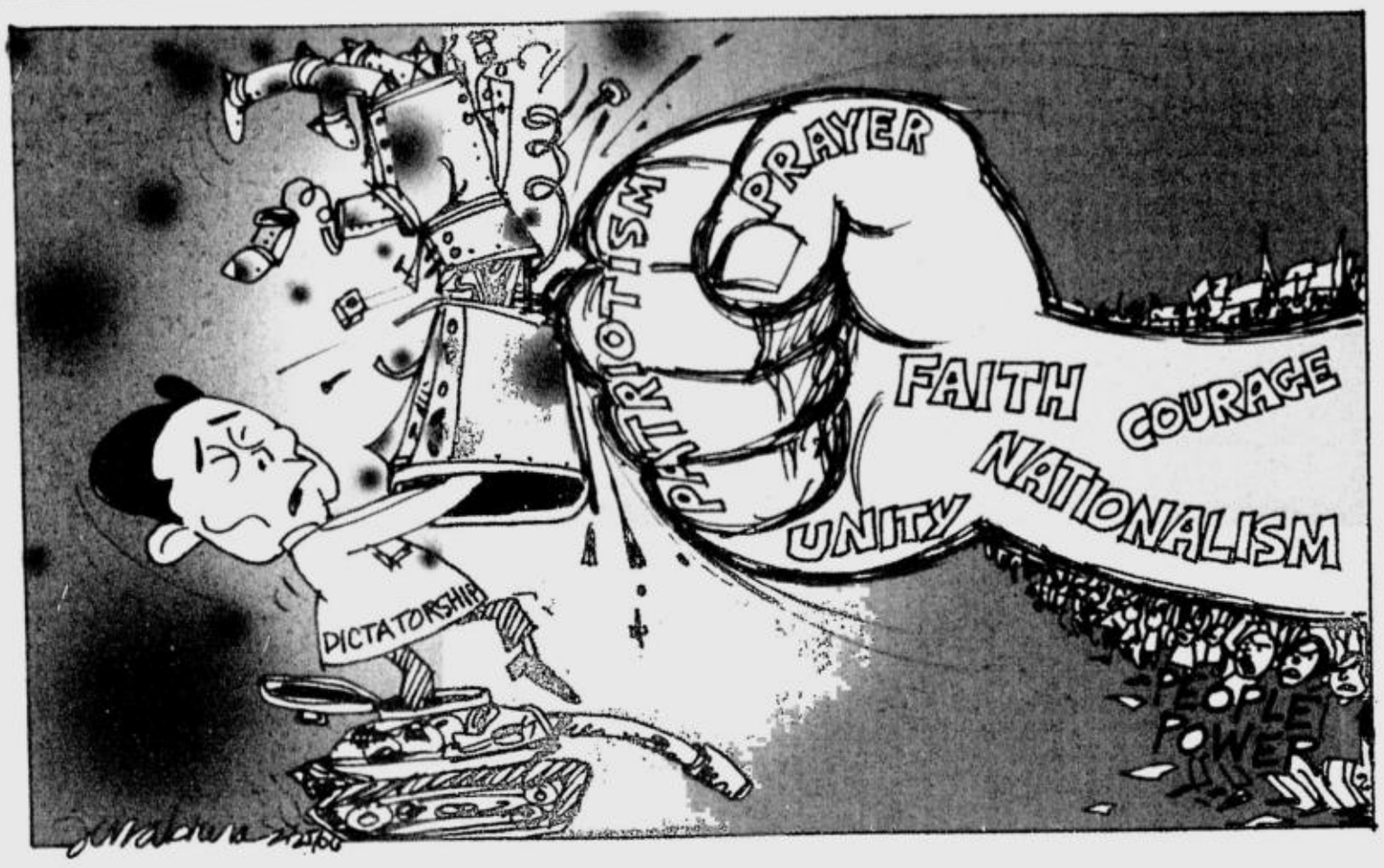

Edsa betrayed

EDITORIAL

WE CONDEMN, IN THE STRONGEST TERMS, THE latest plot by misguided members of the military. In the same breath, and in the very same terms, we also condemn President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency. This is a needless, reckless response to what the Army chief has called a "pending coup." It reinforces public perception that the Arroyo administration is prepared to sacrifice democratic principles on the altar of political survival.

The risk the coup threat poses to the State is real; the detention of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, until yesterday the commanding general of the Army's elite Scout Rangers, and the arrest of Police Director Marcelino Franco, until yesterday the chief of the elite Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police, are troubling indicators of both the depth and reach of restiveness in the armed services.

But it is a risk that is well within the power of the government to contain. We can only conclude that the President's declaration of a state of national emergency (through Proclamation 1017, a number with chilling Marcosian overtones) is a grave overreaction.

Malacañang does not have to take our word for it. The President and her men can ask the members of the financial community, whose judgment they apparently value the most. Joseph Tan, a regional economist at Standard Chartered Bank, spoke for many when he said: "What the alleged coup failed to do, in terms of weakening the peso, the President managed to do with the declaration of a state of emergency."

In other words, the proclamation, which is based (among other premises) on the assumption that the threat against the State includes activities "adversely affecting the economy," is actually what drove the peso down yesterday.

We find another premise of the proclamation deeply disturbing: that "the claims of these elements (referring to some members of the political opposition in alliance with Leftist 'authoritarians' and 'military adventurists') have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media."

This is an unusual clause, and could very well serve as a pretext for cracking down on news organizations that publish unflattering stories about the administration. The un-cool, un-collected Michael Defensor, the President's Chief of Staff, confirmed our worst suspicions when he spoke excitedly about what the proclamation has empowered the administration to do. Among these, he noted the government's power to take over public utilities, "even media facilities," should the need arise.

In the hands of an administration that has in fact all but blamed the media for airing opinions or positions contrary to those of Malacañang, it is not difficult to imagine the state of national emergency being used to gag journalists—and thus restrain the public's right to know.

We condemn both the coup plot and the presidential proclamation as acts of violence against the body politic. The use of organized violence, no matter how targeted, can never be an acceptable option. At the same time, the declaration merely gives legal form to brute political reality: The true mandate of this administration, engulfed in a continuing crisis of legitimacy, lies in the armed services.

We condemn both the plot and the proclamation as assaults on democracy. A violent strike is fatally undemocratic; a public that thinks the President stole the elections cannot turn around and embrace the violence that negates the very idea of the vote. At the same time, the declaration pays lip service to democratic ideals, but in truth creates an opportunity to curtail the very liberties at the heart of our democracy.

Not least, we condemn both the plot and the proclamation as betrayals of the highest ideals of the Edsa revolution. The events that shook the nation and stunned the world exactly 20 years ago today started when a military faction broke away from the Marcos regime. But it was not the military that launched the Edsa revolution; this lesson has been lost, however, on those adventurists in the military who have lost patience with the democratic experiment.

At the same time, the declaration is deeply, maddeningly anti-Edsa. Yesterday, when it was still only a few hours old, it was used to justify the violent dispersal of a crowd that had gathered to mark the Edsa anniversary, and to arrest some of the demonstrators. Here, indisputably, is proof that the Arroyo administration has turned its back on Edsa.

Redeeming the promise of Edsa

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THIS IS PROBABLY THE LAST ARTICLE I will be writing about Edsa I. By this time next year, that historic event will have been vindicated at last by a remorseful nation or just casually remembered as an insignificant vignette in the annals of our race.

It began on Sept. 23 34 years ago, a Saturday when I met my morning class in Political Law Review at the UE College of Law. There was an unusual number of absences but we held recitations just the same as in other ordinary meetings. Afterwards, however, a student approached me to say that Marcos had declared martial law two days ago and had begun to enforce it. The whole country was now under his absolute rule, with the armed forces behind him.

On my way home, I saw soldiers already stationed at various places but without intimidation or arrogance as yet. I learned later of the omens of the terrible things to come under the new regime. Congress had been abolished and padlocked. The media were all banned except for those under the despot's control. Many of his enemies had been arrested without warrant for indefinite detention. The Supreme Court was silenced and effectively conscripted.

The populace was initially indignant but was eventually cowed and regimented. The few who resisted were arbitrarily picked up, many of them to be tortured and killed. The "zona" of the Japanese occupation was revived, and the checkpoints for monetary shakedowns were legalized in the name of national security. Human rights were abused without reason or limitation.

The conjugal dictatorship of Marcos and Imelda ruled the country as if there were no tomorrow. The Constitution was desecrated to make their power unlimited and secure. The rubber-stamp Batasang Pambansa meekly obeyed them and the Supreme Court "legitimized" their illegal acts. Relatives and friends enjoyed exceptional privileges without accountability or compunction. The entertainment industry sang hosannas to the tyranny and was generously rewarded. The military strutted with its new-found power as the new masters of the land.

This oppression continued for more than 13 years until the nation finally glimpsed a light at the end of the tunnel. On Feb. 22, 1986, Juan Ponce Enrile, defense minister and high sheriff of martial law, hurled his defiance at the dictatorship. From his office at Edsa, he called on the people to fight for the downfall of Marcos and his cohorts. He asked AFP vice chief of staff Fidel V. Ramos to join him, and he did. Butz Aquino urged his followers to rally to them, and they did.

They first came in trickles but soon grew to thousands, and hundreds of thousands, of Filipinos who had finally discovered their anger and their courage to summon it against the tyrant. Men and women from all walks of life, paupers and millionaires alike, teachers and their students, sweethearts arm-in-arm, a grandmother in a wheelchair and nuns carrying candles and bouquets, even teenagers reckless of the danger of bayonets and bombs—all of them joined in the towering demand for Marcos to step down.

He finally did, on Feb. 25, 20 years ago today. As demonstrators marched on Malacañang to wreak vengeance on the man who had disgraced it, US planes flew Marcos with his family and co-principals to safety in Hawaii, where he was later to die, away from the land he had betrayed and unpunished for his crimes.

What has Edsa accomplished besides the end of his dictatorship? Have its satraps been suitably penalized for the rank offenses they committed during the dark period of martial law? Has the wickedness of that unhappy time been erased with the revival of the people's freedom and the vindication of their outraged rights?

To ask these questions is to accuse ourselves of our indifference to that evil era and our blasé condonation of its immunized transgressions.

The people of Romania executed Nicolas and Elena Ceausescu, Mao Zedong's wife was upon his death imprisoned for her sins, and Augusto Pinochet is now, at age 91, being prosecuted for crimes he allegedly committed as president of Chile. But the scoundrels of our martial law have not suffered similar retribution for their ravishment of our helpless nation.

Places are still named after Marcos and his wife. The cases against her are still sleeping in our courts, except one where her conviction was reversed by the Supreme Court and her P23.5-billion tax deficiency that is still not fully collected. Many of the couple's cronies are still in power and remain as untouched as before for their nonchalant misdeeds. The public funds they have malversed have not yet been returned to their rightful owners. The venalities we hoped Edsa would correct are still with us now as if that bloodless revolution had not happened at all.

In our celebration of Edsa today, let us resolve to give it its true meaning and purpose in 1986. Let us recall its significance in ending the Marcos oppression and the peaceful restoration of democracy to our tormented country. That glorious event earned us the admiration of the world, but we have forgotten that tribute, too, as if we did not deserve it.

Keeping the flame of Edsa alive

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

COUNT ME OUT OF THE PROTEST ACTIONS at the Edsa Shrine and Makati disguised as a peaceful celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolt. It is not because I don't want to celebrate it—that event showed not only us, but an admiring world, the best of the Filipino spirit, and is therefore worthy of recall. But I refuse to celebrate it with people who are cynically using the occasion to further their own political or personal agendas by invoking "the greater good." Truly the last refuge of scoundrels.

By doing so, they are destroying all that the Edsa revolt stands for: the spirit of self-sacrifice for the motherland, with no thought of personal benefit. And what is more, they are encouraging military adventurism that may end up at first with a military/civilian junta, but will, if world experience is any indication, surely metamorphose into a military dictatorship, a la Myanmar with its 44-year-old military rule. That will truly be the height of irony: they want to change Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (with assertions of her "illegitimacy" that so far has not been substantiated), and will end up with a regime that they may not be able to change at all. Sow the wind, reap the whirlwind.

Those who are calling loudest for Ms Arroyo to make the "supreme sacrifice" and step down for the "good of the country," what kind of sacrifice are they willing to make, if at all? Take the leftists with the red flags who sat out Edsa I and are trying to exploit the event to set up their own government without benefit of elections (to be held only after 1,000 days, if at all). Like the proposed governing council or junta, were they not expecting to be in that self-same governing council themselves? Take those who resigned their Cabinet positions. Was that really a sacrifice, considering that they seemed to be maneuvering to be in the incoming government (what was that visit to Hong Kong all about, after all)? Or those who supported them. Weren't they also expecting, and bargaining for plum positions in the successor government? Or those supposed military "idealists" who want change. What were they doing playing footsies with the New People's Army, whose sworn objective is the violent overthrow of any government that is not theirs? Or people like Scout Ranger Brig. Gen. Danny Lim, who has been in I don't know how many coup attempts, pretended to have reformed and thus rose through the ranks, and now resurfaces as the head of a breakaway group. Have they bothered to ask themselves what benefit, or rather, damage, the country has incurred from their activities to supposedly save it?

What about all the hysterical reactions to the so-called "state of emergency," which does not add any powers to the President that she does not already have? It is like the "state of rebellion" declared during—was it the Oakwood incident?—that some people immediately described as undeclared martial law. The fact is that there is an emergency situation because there was an attempt by a faction of the military to withdraw support from the government and to solicit participation through the chain of command. And it is likely that the attempt was made with the support, tacit or material, of others. And it is likely that a few (certainly not all) elements of those participating in the street celebration may want to exploit the situation for their own ends. Provided that the police act with maximum tolerance, what is wrong with taking the necessary precautions to make sure that the assemblies are indeed only peaceful celebrations of a glorious moment in our history?

After all, the spirit of Edsa is not dead, as some people say, perhaps to excuse their inability to mobilize a critical mass in the streets. It is very much alive—not in those with self-serving agenda or who think of it in the narrow sense of street protests—but in the quiet heroes engaged in the noble task of nation-building, especially in their own communities, who exercise people power as an instrument to make a better life for themselves. Like the parents who work with local officials to improve the education of their children (i.e., Synergeia, about which I have often written), or who make sure that their local officials are accountable for the internal revenue allotments, or who strive to make the justice system work in their barangays, or who even resort to the recall of non-performing local officials, or who resist projects that endanger their environment.

There are other manifestations of people power at a broader level. Like the private initiative, Gawad Kalinga, that is so purely unselfish in spirit that it has drawn countless people to help build not only homes but thriving communities for the underprivileged. Like government officials both low and high (Gem Carague at the Commission on Audit, and Karina David at the Civil Service Commission) who are engaged in institution-building despite the distractions and politicking around them.

Or those who are disappointed with the impeachment proceedings but know that the ultimate sanction in the accountability process in a democracy lies in the elections. Hence, their objections to the No-EI scenario and their advocacy for truly credible elections in 2007. A Congress with a different composition can pursue the "closure" of the issue of national leadership.

There are thousands more like them around the country. This year I am celebrating Edsa with them, because of them, for keeping the flame of Edsa alive for all of us.

State defends itself

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE FORCES THAT CONVERGED ON EDSA YESterday against the Arroyo administration drew elements from the extreme Left to the extreme Right and opposition politicians, principally from the camp of Joseph Estrada. The main group converged around the Edsa Shrine, which was off-limits to any rally. Later in the day, with the proclamation of a state of emergency and the prohibition of rallies of all kinds, the gatherings could be a flash point as the destabilizing groups sought to ride on the Edsa celebration. Red flags dominated Metro Manila's streets, though one group led by Dr. Minguita Padilla, Sen. Panfilo Lacson's doctor, came out to show support for Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, chief of the AFP's Special Forces, who was detained by AFP Chief Gen. Generoso Senga yesterday on charges of rebellion.

* * *

As I wrote this column yesterday, appeals were being made to former President Cory Aquino to answer the call of patriotism and keep her followers out of harm's way. Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, chair of the Region 6 Development Council and a fanatical Ninoy-era marcher, asked Aquino "to please help preserve and protect our democracy, which we all fought for in Edsa." But Aquino pushed through with the march, surrounded mostly by Erap leaders. *Matauhan sana si* Cory *na ginagamit lang siya ng mga* Erap's followers, and the extreme Left and Right. In a clash between these two extremes, Aquino is bound to become irrelevant. In the meantime, the nation is rent apart. Is this what she wants?

* * *

It's interesting that this fresh coup attempt was led by familiar faces, such as Danny Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin. A soldier who spoke on condition of anonymity alleged that former rebel leaders, such as Gregorio Honasan, Tito Legaspi and Jake Malajacan, are behind the coup plotters. All these have figured prominently since the first coup that ousted Marcos and those attempts during the Cory years. If they are indeed behind this new attempt, then it must be true that once a coup plotter, always a coup plotter.

* * *

The anticipation of trouble and the need to put a handle on the situation doubtless were uppermost in their minds as GMA, her Cabinet and members of Congress debated what measures to take. What emerged as a clear option was the declaration of a national emergency. A Palace insider recalled that what guided the Cabinet toward that declaration was the fusion of forces of the opposition, the extreme Left as well as the extreme Right, such as the Oakwood mutineers, the Abat group and others. When GMA, dressed in a beige Chinese-style suit, finally announced the declaration in Filipino, she was very somber and came across as forceful and in command of the situation.

* * *

The coup attempt and the subsequent declaration of national emergency caught most people by surprise. In the midst of it all, I managed to attend the observance of the National Day of the Republic of Estonia, hosted by its honorary consul, Dr. Juan Peña. The guests congratulated one another for braving the Edsa troubles, and appreciated the lack of traffic.

The declaration caused most lawyers and even court judges and justices to rush to their copies of the Constitution and search for its basis. The initial reaction was that there was no basis, but Palace sources quickly pointed out Article 2 of Sec. 4 and Art. 12 of Sec. 17. Art. 2, Sec. 4 provides that "The prime duty of the government is to serve and protect the people," and in this case, it could be against clear and present danger to the State. Art. 12 of Sec. 17 reads, "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately-owned public utility or business affected with public interest." Words like "temporary takeover" flew thick and fast.

Palace sources drew a comparison to the state of emergency declared after the May 1, 2001 assault on Malacañang by Erap's sympathizers, but there are lawyers who argue that the two declarations are not quite the same. Some recalled that in Aug. 15, 2000, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines took then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora, AFP Chief Angelo Reyes and PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson to court for ordering what the lawyers felt were lawless arrests. The government officials won that case and that victory is now cited as a precedent to yesterday's declaration.

* * *

Yesterday, there was a feeling among some lawyers that the basis for the declaration of a state of emergency remained unclear. Within the next few days, expect lawyers to continue this debate in the light of the arrest of prominent leaders.

But all through this, various forces rallied behind GMA, notably her strongest base of support: the congressmen, governors, mayors and other local officials. Most significant was the early support of the Southern Command, the biggest in the AFP. Predictably, many businessmen supported GMA's move as "stabilizing." Personally, I felt this move coming.

* * *

All these destabilization moves are extremely sad and so bad for us. I was in Antique two weeks ago for the 20th anniversary of Evelio Javier's martyrdom, and I noted that the province has become quite progressive, with big banks, shopping centers and other trappings that should take it out of the Club 20 poorest provinces. I was also in Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya recently and saw how they have progressed, with good infrastructure and progressive communities. We have improved our credit standing in the judgment of three important credit rating agencies, with two more agencies set to follow. Our budget deficit has shrunk as government revenues have risen. In other words, the economy is looking good. But our political situation remains unstable. Why does it have to be so?

Déjà vu all over again

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"IT'S LIKE DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN."

Filipinos might have felt like quoting former New York Yankee player-manager Yogi Berra upon catching sight of news footage yesterday morning. There on Edsa was a multitude, defying a declaration of a "state of emergency" and a ban on all street rallies.

The scene was reminiscent of the events of 20 years ago, when Filipinos by the hundreds of thousands defied a "curfew" imposed by a beleaguered Ferdinand Marcos and turned the highway into the center of all the protests that had erupted around the country. Unknown to the people gathered on Edsa, Feb. 24 would turn out to be the most tension-filled and dangerous of the four days of that uprising. Several turning points would take place, including the defection of the 15th Strike Wing and the hesitance and eventual refusal of the loyalist troops in Camp Aguinaldo to fire the guns trained on the rebel troops in Camp Crame. By the next evening, the situation would resolve itself with the departure of the Marcoses from Malacañang.

Certainly, the events unfolding yesterday, indeed still taking place as of this writing, seem but a pale echo of the "Edsa Uno" scenario. But the situation is fluid. The rally on Ayala Avenue in Makati has yet to unfold, and the full details of the confrontation that took place early yesterday morning in Camp Aguinaldo, described, depending on one's source, as a "discussion," "coup attempt" or "withdrawal of support from the government" have yet to be revealed. At a noon press conference, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga would only say that Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim was in his custody, after Lim had declared his withdrawal of support from the Arroyo administration, apparently in full view and within hearing of the command chiefs.

* * *

THE IRONY is not lost on us.

A President who assumed the office by virtue of a reprise of People Power in 2001 now desecrates the memory of the original by declaring a state of emergency in the middle of the four-day observance of Edsa's 20th anniversary.

Much the same point was raised by UP professor Randy David in his interviews with news anchors presiding over the live coverage of yesterday's tumultuous events. David was being interviewed as a consequence of his arrest during the dispersal of a group of ralliers massed at the corner of Edsa and Santolan, which earned a place in Edsa history as one of the fronts in the anticipated battle between the Marcos loyalist forces and the people. Yesterday, it had seemed the "battle" was joined again, with police violently driving away ordinary citizens exercising their right to peaceful assembly.

Even as Cabinet officials and local government executives gathered in Malacañang assured the Filipino public and the world that the situation was "back to normal," police were busy creating chaos in the streets, enforcing the President's ban on all assemblies as part of her declaration of national emergency.

What a way to celebrate the Spirit of Edsa!

* * *

THE PRESIDENT and her officials were hard put explaining the basis for the declaration of a state of national emergency. Legal eagles in the President's team sought to justify her orders —even likening the situation at one point to a catastrophic natural disaster—but were hard put providing details on what exactly constituted a threat to the government.

Senga sought to downplay the significance of Lim's pronouncement, saying it came after a "discussion of issues." But if it was a mere "discussion," and Lim's declaration just a bit of bravado or loose talk, would that mean the Republic was in peril?

The military was quick to boast that their ranks were intact and that their soldiers and weaponry were all accounted for. The economic officials were just as gung-ho, saying that despite the foreboding news, the economic indicators were holding strong and that a group of high-powered Japanese businessmen were still optimistic about their investments in the country. If this is so, then why is the country in a state of national emergency?

* * *

ONE of the plans being contemplated for the observance of Edsa's 20th anniversary (since shelved, I suppose) was for the staging of a long unbroken line of people linking arms in the classic gesture of "*kapit-bisig*" all the way from the Ninoy statue along Roxas Boulevard in Manila to Makati where another Ninoy statue stands, and thence to the Edsa Shrine.

If it had pushed through, the "*kapit-bisig*" would have been an awesome sight, a symbol of the Filipino people's continuing faith in freedom and democracy, of their willingness to put their lives on the line to defend this democracy and freedom, and their determination to rally the nation and bring the struggle to greater heights.

But yesterday, all attempts to "*kapit-bisig*," even metaphorically, were broken up and dispersed. Perhaps the Arroyo administration has indeed learned the "right" lessons from 20 years ago and even from five years ago. Don't allow the number of people on Edsa to reach a so-called "critical mass." Put down each and every attempt, however small, to draw a crowd and build a momentum for protest. Intimidate the populace and scare the media into silence and indifference. Call the protesters "*pasaway*," or simply inclined to defy lawful orders.

But the President, I fear, ignores the symbolic power of Edsa, and the powerful feelings this 20th anniversary evokes. The day of reckoning may not arrive, for all we know, today or tomorrow, but her panicked reaction to perceived threats seems only to hasten that day's arrival.

In which case another Yogi Berra quote seems only apropos: "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

Clearing the deck

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THIS BEING THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER year, it seemed to be the right time to clean out cobwebs, papers and contents of brown envelopes that were threatening to engulf the apartment. To be fair to people both in and out of government who have written to clarify some salient points discussed in past articles, this may also be a good time as any to publish their comments.

I know many of us are still wondering what happened to the proceeds from the sale of Fort Bonifacio, or specifically the P5.489 billion representing the 35 percent share of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for its Modernization Program. According to a letter from lawyer Frumencio Lagustan, former President Fidel V. Ramos' spokesperson, the money was remitted to the National Treasury and placed in a special account. Six years ago, on April 30, 1998, the AFP wrote the Office of the President that it was ready to manage the trust fund. On May 29, 2000, the Department of Budget and Management issued a Special Allotment Release Order to the AFP for P5.4 billion, indicating that at the end of Ramos' term, the funds were intact.

During the Estrada administration, the AFP Modernization Program was relegated to low priority. Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno stated that the modernization program had to be postponed until the financial crisis was over. (Pardon me, but since we are forever in a state of financial crisis, does this mean that the modernization program will never be carried out or that the funds from the sale of public domain will not be utilized for the purpose intended?) Perhaps Diokno should tell us whether the funds were still intact when Estrada was ousted. If they were, then we should get explanations from his successors, former Budget Secretaries Emilia Boncodin and Romulo Neri.

I tell you, one of my biggest resentments is the lack of accountability around here, starting with the Presidential Commission on Good Government that, as far as everyone knew, was co-terminus with the Aquino administration. PCGG officials have since managed to perpetuate themselves in power and feed on the poor Filipino like the proverbial leeches. For the nth time, what happened to all those sequestered companies?

We have to laud presidential Adviser and UP professor Carolina Hernandez for the comprehensive report she sent explaining the specific recommendations of the Feliciano Commission. But there are still some issues that remain unclear. The United States has pledged $160 million (P9 billion) to finance the Philippine Defense Reform program, provided we put up an equivalent amount. Remember that special account in the National Treasury covering the funds from the Bonifacio sale? Have we used it as the counterpart fund, and if so, has the United States begun to release the pledged $160 million?

As the first civilian defense secretary under President Macapagal-Arroyo, Avelino Cruz promised to implement what he called the Philippine Defense Reform. What important reforms has he instituted? The AFP's ratio of non-combatants to field troops is 10 to 1! The world-wide standard is 2.3 to 1. If the numbers were trimmed to conform to world standards, the AFP personnel budget could probably be reduced to P12 billion against the present P36 billion—for savings of P22 billion that could be used to improve their equipment. Last we heard, the Philippine Air Force didn't even have enough planes for training and was still holding out tin cans waiting for American munificence.

Another awful statistic is the ratio of pilots to planes. It appears that the PAF has a total of 1,018 pilots with ranks of lieutenant to lieutenant general. By Hernandez's count, the number of operational planes is 62. If the ideal ratio is 3 pilots to 1 aircraft, we would need 340 planes, a number we certainly cannot afford. Isn't the solution then to downsize PAF personnel since there aren't enough planes for them to fly?

PAF pilots collect extra income through their "flight pay," which is earned if a pilot flies a plane at least four hours a month. Since few operational aircraft are available, does it follow that many pilots don't earn flight pay?

Hernandez has done much to dismantle the "comptroller cult" in the AFP. Most people though were outraged that retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, who was found guilty of "high-level corruption," only received a two-year sentence at hard labor. Will Garcia be charged before the Sandiganbayan for criminal offenses which carries a heavier penalty or is the case being filed merely to recover hidden wealth? Will his wife then be charged as accomplice? And, just as important, was the wife of retired Gen. Angelo Reyes ever investigated for the frequent trips she took in the company of Mrs. Garcia? I had read that the Garcia bank accounts in the United States had been frozen. Do they remain so?

Col. Ricardo Morales, who advocated not just "reform" but "transformation" of the AFP, has been sacked, according to the newspapers. Was he sacked because of his recommendations? And has he been mustered out of the AFP or just relieved of his field post?

Let us hope that Hernandez remains as presidential adviser for as long as it takes to reform the AFP. We should congratulate her. Even the feedback from Foggy Bottom says that she's doing a commendable job. We wish there were more of her around.

* * *

Comments at bambiharper@yahoo.com

Living the spirit

AS THE NATION COMMEMORATES THE 20TH ANNIVERsary of the first People Power revolution, it is the first time Jaime Cardinal Sin is not present.

Without Cardinal Sin, Edsa I could have turned out differently. Bullets and bombs would have rained down on Camp Crame instead of rosaries and prayers. Rocks would have been thrown instead of food and bread. Curses would have been shouted instead of words of forgiveness and love. But as we all know, a miracle unfolded on Edsa, and a great bloodless, peaceful revolution was successfully waged before the eyes of the world.

YOUNG BLOOD

Marion Noel Q. Bayaras

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

The cardinal might have made a big gamble when he called upon his flock, starting with the priests and nuns, to protect Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos. But he must have known that his call was a sure bet, not because of his own charisma, but because he knew he was doing God's will and he was just acting as God's instrument.

Truly, man's folly is God's wisdom. What kind of people would use their own bodies as shields against guns and grenades to protect two "rebels"? And what kind of soldiers would not use their armaments to remove obstructions to their mission? A sane person would just go home and watch history unfold on television, away from possible violence. A brave soldier would use every means to accomplish his objective. In acting the way they did at Edsa, these people would appear to be "insane" in the eyes of ordinary people, but in Christian eyes, they were people inspired by God.

Many people would now ask: What's the use of commemorating Edsa? We are still a nation in crisis. Politicians are still greedy for position, power and money. Where is the love and peace that reigned over Edsa in 1986? Have the people changed? Only their age and positions have changed, but not their attitudes or their ambitions.

To those who ask this question, let me relate an ancient legend I first heard from a priest who was celebrating Mass on the fifth anniversary of Edsa II last January:

A woman died and arrived on the banks of the River of the Afterlife. She was brought by the boatman of the underworld across the waters to the realm of departed souls. Upon arriving on the other side, she was asked if she wanted to drink water from a stream. These were waters of forgetfulness, which would erase all memory of her years on earth, she was told.

She asked the boatman, "If I drink this cup, will I forget how much I suffered and the tragedy I experienced?"

"Yes," he replied, "you will forget all your sadness together with every moment of joy."

"Will I forget my failures and mistakes?"

"Yes, your failures will evaporate into the mist of oblivion, and your triumphs as well."

"Will I forget the people who neglected and abused me?"

"Yes, those who hurt you will vanish from memory, as will the people who loved you and those you loved in return."

The woman took some moments to think things over. Then she shook her head and said, "I cannot do that. I will not drink of the waters of forgetfulness. I choose to remember everything."

We choose to commemorate Edsa because there is something, many things that happened there that are worth remembering and revisiting. People seem to have forgotten the spirit of love, service and peace that guided them at Edsa in 1986 and 2001. This should not be set aside and forgotten, it should be remembered and revived.

Cardinal Sin has passed away. We are still in crisis. Most of our politicians still act according to their own selfish interests. People are being killed as they try to pursue the truth. Are these our people's reward for being there at Edsa in 1986 and 2001?

Amid this discouraging situation, the Church continues to counsel us not to lose hope. We may get fed up with the unabated corruption we see in public offices and frustrated by the fact that some many corrupt officials can go about their evil ways with impunity. We may feel drained just watching the rallies and street protests to denounce wrongdoing in government. But let us not be indifferent to what we see and what we hear. For if the moment we become desensitized to the evil we see around us, then all hope is gone.

We may not see the spirit of Edsa animating public offices but it is still being manifested by people of good will. These people embody our hope, our hope that as a nation, we can overcome crisis after crisis. Edsa, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, has been aptly named for "epiphany" means a manifestation of the saints, and truly on this highway, saints manifested themselves in 1986 and 2001. Not in glorious white robes and with shining halos, but through the ordinary people who responded to the cardinal's invitation to a feast of love, peace and service.

Today the same people represent our hope, these people who have lived the spirit of Edsa. Let us not leave them alone, but instead let us join them. And then maybe, the saints will manifest themselves through us again.

Marion Noel Q. Bayaras, 20, is a second year Philosophy student at San Carlos Seminary.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

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THEY SAID

Outmoded nationalism

"In defending the outmoded nationalist provisions of our Constitution, the bishops are out of the loop in global economics. Under the CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) world-view, the likely scenario will merely install Filipino exploiters over foreign exploiters."

—Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, saying the Mining Law should only be amended and not repealed

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Tale of two presidents

THERE IS A STRIKING SIMILARITY between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the late Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos amended the Constitution to perpetuate himself in power and called his regime "constitutional authoritarianism." GMA proposes Charter change to alter the form of government from presidential to parliamentary, hoping to install herself as president or prime minister.

Marcos didn't retire generals. Instead, he extended their tour of duty. GMA just appoints them to higher civilian positions.

Marcos had ASSO (arrest, search and seizure order) to legitimize the brutal dispersal of student activists. GMA has CPR (calibrated preemptive response) to justify the water-hosing of even prominent opposition leaders. Same dog, different collar.

Marcos organized the dreaded death squads to "salvage" (summarily execute) student activists who defied his autocratic rule. GMA has let loose killers on motorbikes, and they have murdered journalists and militants. Under both presidents, most of these murderous assaults remain unsolved.

Marcos fed the dogs in the military and the police so that they wouldn't bite him back. GMA has doled out P1.5 billion to the military and P1 billion to the police so that they wouldn't turn their backs on her. She also distributed noodles to the poor and hungry people to appease them.

By the way, Imelda Marcos and Mike Arroyo have striking similarities, too. Guess what? Your guess is as good as mine.

Marcos was banished to Hawaii instead of Paoay. GMA, too, has a choice: Lanao or Lubao.

—RENE R. ANTIGA,
secretary general,
Alliance of Unified Transport and Telecom Organizations of the Philippines (AUTTO),
Unit 301 Harrison Parkview Condominium, 2260 Asuncion St., Malate, Manila

The spirit behind 'insignificant' 20th Edsa anniversary

I WANT TO AIR MY DISAPPOINTMENT over the Arroyo government's decision to downplay the 20th anniversary of the Edsa Revolution. I have been forgiving of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's past mistakes because I believed she was still the "best" person to lead this nation. But these past few days, I've been seeing the ugly side of our President.

Not wanting to put herself in the same spotlight with her former allies (Cory Aquino, the NGOs) that are now calling for her resignation, she decided to forego a milestone anniversary (not just any anniversary but the 20th to be exact) of Edsa by presiding over an almost non-existent and insignificant celebration.

I pity the people who put their lives on the line just so this country can enjoy a better future. Their efforts seem to have been forgotten by the very person who benefited so much from it.

Edsa II happened because the people have rediscovered in Edsa I the power they can wield over a corrupt administration.

I guess the people's apathy nowadays may be due to the fact that they've forgotten this inherent power. And this low-key celebration is GMA's way of keeping the spirit of Edsa forgotten, to ensure the survival of her besieged, unpopular administration.

—IAN CEASAR VICENTE,
ian_ceasar27@yahoo.com

An Edsa experience in Iraq in the year 1986

I WAS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (Baghdad, Iraq) during Edsa I. I came to learn of what was happening in Edsa on Feb. 22, 1986, from the American Broadcasting Company (ABC).

In the days that followed, ABC regularly broadcast an update on the event every hour; and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) every one and a half hour. So I knew what was happening in Edsa Philippines in those historic days of 1986, probably more than most Filipinos in Manila.

On Feb. 26, upon learning of the departure of Ferdinand Marcos and the assumption of President Cory Aquino, I decided to come home to Manila.

As a resident of Iraq at that time, I was required to obtain an exit visa from that country. The process usually would take about a week, but the director of immigration, who was also excited about what was happening in the Philippines, approved my visa in just one hour. And he congratulated me!

—ILDEFONSO J. REMOLONA,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Leftist tag

THE KARAPATAN ALLIANCE FOR the Advancement of People's Rights lauds the INQUIRER for giving attention and space to pressing issues confronting our nation, particularly those pertaining to human rights. We are thankful that human rights organizations like ours are given the chance to present our findings on cases involving human rights violations.

However, our attention has been drawn to certain news items referring to Karapatan as a leftist group/left-wing organization. (PDI, 12/3/05; 2/1/06) The tag seems to suggest that our human rights problems are that many as a result of our being a "leftist group." Unnecessarily, too, the tag reinforces the statements of military officials that we are a front organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines, a justification that the military all too often uses to summarily execute civilians, human rights workers included.

We are being subjected to a vilification campaign, which not only puts our field workers at greater risk but also hinders us from giving immediate assistance to victims. To date, 22 Karapatan human rights workers have been killed under the Arroyo administration, six of them women.

Karapatan is and will always be an umbrella organization of different human rights organizations, desks, institutions and individual advocates operating within the framework of law. As a citizen's watchdog on human rights, it is our duty to observe how the Philippine government, as a signatory to human rights conventions, complies with the highest standards set by human rights instruments. Reported cases of violations committed by state security forces against its citizens are documented by our organization as we advocate for the respect of the full scope of the Filipino people's human rights.

—RUTH G. CERVANTES,
public information officer,
Karapatan,
karapatan.pid@gmail.com

CHED's anti-youth CMO 14

WE BELIEVE THAT THE RECENT Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Memorandum Order No. 14, Series of 2005 (CMO 14) runs counter to the principle of democratic consultation and must be reviewed by Congress.

CMO 14 purportedly regulates the imposition of tuition and other school fees amid the growing outrage of students and parents over annual tuition and other fee hikes. Yet, one glaring feature of the said memo is that it allows tuition and other fee increases without student consultation, if the proposed increase is less than or equivalent to the prevailing year's inflation rate.

CHED confounds logic in setting the prevailing inflation rate as an index to the rate of allowable increase in tuition and other fees at a time when the prices of basic commodities are at an all-time high, given the recent implementation of the reformed value added tax (RVAT) and soaring oil prices.

Even in cases where students are consulted and a dispute results over the proposed increases, CMO 14 favors school owners: it automatically approves applications for increases and new fees when the CHED fails to act on such disputes. We suggest that the applications be deferred until such time that the bodies can convene and decide on the cases.

Undoubtedly, CHED's CMO 14 is simply a token response to the serious concerns of our countrymen regarding access to higher education. Worse, it has disastrous implications for the millions of young Filipinos.

As it has done countless times in the past, the CHED, as the embodiment of how the government views its obligation to build an educated citizenry, is once again turning its back on the Filipino youth.

—ALVIN PETERS,
secretary general,
National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP),
nusp_national@yahoo.com

Undiminished by the ridicules

I AM A CHRISTIAN AND WILL most probably die as one. But I do not really know how I'd feel if Christ were caricatured in an Arab newspaper as one abetting Bush's wars of aggression in the Middle East. Perhaps, like many other Christians, I would just pray and ask for His forgiveness of those who blaspheme Him for "they do not know what they do."

My faith tells me that Christ has remained the same forever, neither demeaned nor diminished by those who ridicule Him—from the Pharisees and the Roman soldiers to modern-day atheists and agnostics.

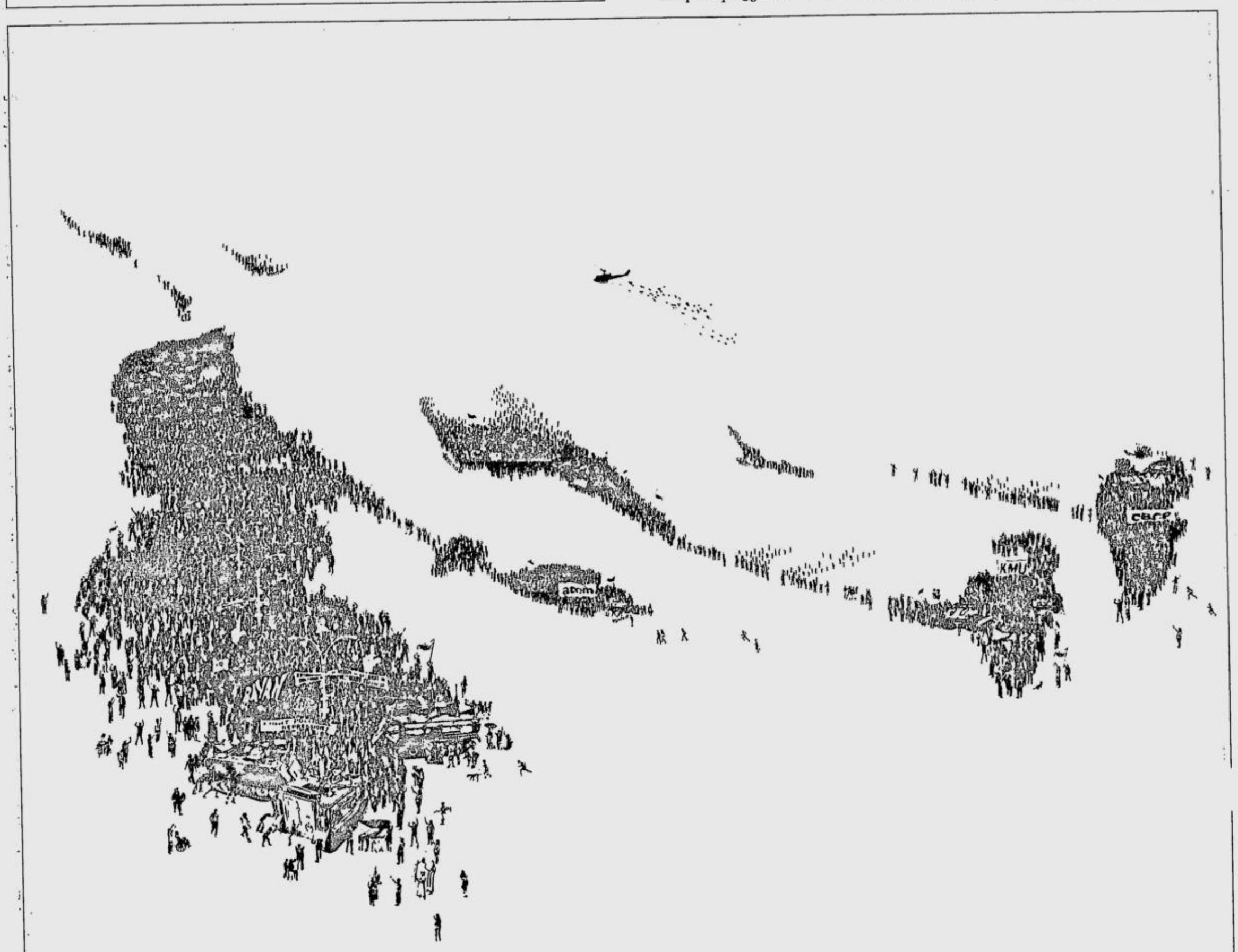
A few years ago, I came across a taped Richard Harris soliloquy, in which he asks (if I still remember right): "Who are you to convert Me into a bullet and shoot Me into someone's heart?" To paraphrase that quote, I dare ask: "Who are you to forge God into a scimitar and use it to cut someone's head? Pray who?"

The worse tragedy, more lamentable and more provoking, is using Islam, a religion of peace, forgiveness and self-sacrifice, as an excuse to kidnap, detain and kill helpless, innocent hostages in a horrific manner.

Demonstrations are perfectly acceptable, even necessary, at times. Boycotting Danish products may be justified but not the burning of Danish embassies and certainly not the imposition of a "death sentence" on the cartoonists.

The most important consideration is how to balance freedom of the press with freedom of religion, both of which arise from the same inherent right of free expression. Sacrificing one for the sake of the other could be fatal to all freedom-loving peoples, regardless of their race or creed.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ,
420 Gov. A. Pascual St., San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila



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Trees keep falling in Aurora forests

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ILLEGAL LOGGING activities have remained rampant and unchecked in at least two Aurora towns even on the heels of killer landslides in 2004, a Catholic priest told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

Fr. Antonio Evangelista, of the St. Patrick Parish in Dingalan town, said it was through the efforts of the parish pastoral council that policemen and foresters from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources seized 2,221 board feet or 34 pieces of logs loaded in a truck in Barangay Paltic on Monday.

Evangelista said the logs were hauled by boat from Barangay Dinakapinisan in San Luis town.

He said the cargo would have easily been slipped out of Dingalan had not the parishioners insisted that the DENR and the police move to seize these.

He said the police have taken custody of the truck owned by Johnny Daracan of Dingalan. Daracan bought the logs from Elmer Susa, who was arrested in the operations.

Information gathered by the council showed that the trees were being felled in forests near the coasts of Dingalan and San Luis.

"Illegal logging is rampant here and most of the trees are freshly cut," the priest told the INQUIRER by phone and in text messages.

He said in Barangay Paltic, Dingalan, where more than 100 people died in the 2004 landslides, trees are cut on an almost daily basis.

Parishioners have observed that motorized boats dock at the bay almost every night and unload logs.

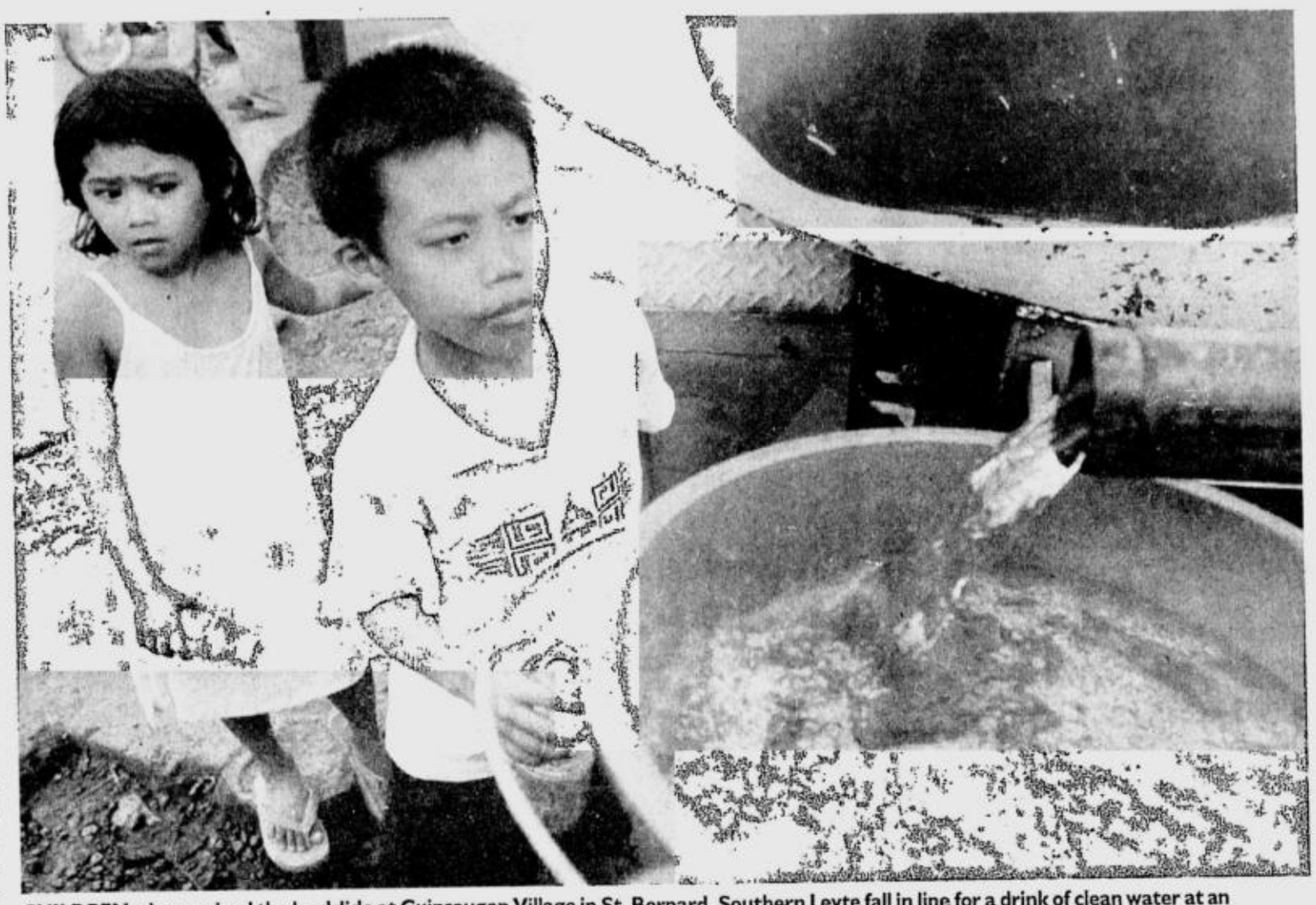
Benjamin Mina, DENR provincial officer, denied that illegal logging has resumed on a rampant scale.

He confirmed, however, that in 2005, foresters have seized some 15,000 board feet of lumber from various parts of Aurora.

"*May nagpapalusot pa rin* (There are those who try to steal wood)," Mina told the INQUIRER.

He said only the Industries Development Corp. in Casiguran, in the northern part of Aurora, has been allowed by the DENR to resume operations.

The timber license permits of eight other companies over more than 200,000 hectares of forests in that part of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges remained suspended, Mina said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



CHILDREN who survived the landslide at Guinsaugon Village in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte fall in line for a drink of clean water at an evacuation center in the town. LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

ROUNDUP

Bomb threat in Malolos

CITY OF MALOLOS—Work at the city hall here was suspended on Friday when a man called up an employee to tell her that a bomb would explode in the building. City police chief Supt. Manuel Lukban said Concepcion Chico, a member of Mayor Danilo Domingo's staff, said the man called up at 10:30 a.m. and warned her that a bomb would explode at 11 a.m. The man introduced himself as a member of a local militant group and then hung up, Chico said. Lukban said he asked Domingo to order employees out of the three-story building while a police team searched for the bomb. After more than an hour of searching, the team failed to find any explosive.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Collision kills 2 Koreans, Pinoy

TARLAC CITY—Two Korean missionaries and a Filipino were killed when their vehicles collided on MacArthur Highway in Gerona, Tarlac, on Friday. Police said Dae Jin Kim, 32, and Soon Duk Kim, 40, were on their way to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when their Hyundai Starex van hit a northbound Mitsubishi Lancer in Barangay Parsolingan. The car driver, Victor de Guzman, 41, also died while two Korean children and a 54-year-old Korean woman were hurt. A member of the Korean Union Church said the victims were scheduled to return to Korea on Friday.

Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk

OFWs donate money

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—A group of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Canada recently donated money for the construction of 50 houses for typhoon victims here. Efren Quiben, Gawad Kalinga provincial head, said the 50 houses are part of the 115 units that would be built in Barangay Abian here. The construction is funded by the Answer to the Cry of the Poor (Ancop), an organization of OFWs in Canada.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

2 killed in Dagupan

DAGUPAN CITY—A village official and a member of a civilian volunteer organization were shot and killed on Wednesday by two motorcycle-riding men in Malasiqui town, police said. Police said Ruben Palaganas, 48, head of Barangay Bakitiw in Malasiqui, and Louie Tantay, 25, were on their way home in a motorcycle when they were gunned down. Palaganas had just attended the monthly meeting of the Association of Barangay Councils when he hitched a ride with Tantay.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Hot logs seized

COTABATO CITY—Police seized at least 1,238 board feet of illegally cut logs on Wednesday in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat. Lebak town police chief Insp. George Parcon said the logs were found in Barangay Ragandan. Parcon said the seizure was prompted by a tip from concerned residents about rampant illegal cutting of trees in the area.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Banned recruitment firm continues to operate

BAGUIO CITY—A MIGRANTS' group in Asia-Pacific and Middle East has asked the government to look into the activities of a Saudi Arabia company that has been banned from recruiting Filipino workers.

The Asian-Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM), in a statement, said the Al-nasban/Annasban contracting company had been linked to abuses allegedly committed against overseas Filipino workers it deployed in the Middle East.

Through two Manila-based recruitment agencies, the company last year sent 15 women from Baguio, Benguet and La Union to work for a Saudi hospital.

The women have been on strike since early this year after they accused their employer of breach of contract. They were recruited to work as janitors in a mental hospital but were made to work as caregivers in a rehabilitation center in Riyadh.

Their complaints also included illegal pay deduction, non-payment of overtime pay and lack of food.

Anthony Basil, welfare officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) in the Cordillera, confirmed that Annasban had been banned by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration from recruiting workers due to reports of abuses.

The APMM said: "A couple of years ago, the Philippine government banned the Annasban contracting company, only after pressures done by migrants' organizations and groups. Why were they able to recruit again?"

The company recruited the first batch of OFWs from Benguet, Baguio and La Union in March last year, a month before the ban took effect, it was learned.

The second batch was recruited in April, according to Flora Belinan, spokesperson of Migrante-Cordillera. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Baguio learns from Wowowee, secures flower fest

BAGUIO CITY—POLICE ARE mounting the largest crowd control operation in the city's history this week by deploying 2,000 policemen, paramedics and civilian volunteers to secure the parade lanes of two independent Baguio Flower Festival organizers.

Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, city police director, said the deployment is calculated to handle thousands of tourists and residents, who may show up today and tomorrow to watch two parades separately organized by Mayor Braulio Yaranon and by lawyer Damaso Bangaoet, the festival's founder.

Yaranon is backing the activities of the Baguio Flower Festival Association (BFFAI), led by Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon. The foundation is feuding with the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) for control over the 11-year-old event.

Bangaoet, BFFFI chair, is the acknowledged founder of the Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival, and had been running the event until former Mayor Bernardo Vergara made the privately funded festival a city project in 2003.

WORKERS put flowers in a float for today's two celebrations of the Flower Festival. TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Both Bangaoet and Vergara decided to proceed with the foundation's version of the 2006 festival to assert BFFFI's stake in the profitable and tourist-drawing activity.

The previous Panagbenga parades and other festival-related activities had drawn about 100,000 tourists yearly. More than 25,000 people are expected to crowd the sidewalks of Session and Harrison roads to watch the parades.

The twin parades have turned into a security nightmare for the city government, which is absorbing lessons from the Feb. 4 stampede at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City, that killed over 71 people, said Isagani Liporada of the city tourism office.

Both festival organizers are streamlining the lists of people who will be allowed to secure the parade. Even media organizations were asked to cut down the number of reporters who will be deployed to cover the parades.

Yaranon had issued Administrative Order 25 on Feb. 8, to restrict all public activities to run for up to 12 hours in a day, to ensure that local police officers can handle the volume of participants. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

LANDSLIDE DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Fontana Leisure Parks and the HK All Star Sports Association turn over a check for P2 million to the Philippine National Red Cross as donation for relief and rescue operations in Guinsaugon Village. From left are Tony Biggs, Fontana general manager; Lam Yin Lok, Hong Kong investor representative; Alan Tam and Red Cross director George Go.

Clamor grows for backpackers' release

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—THE CONTROversy hounding the arrest of 11 backpackers for their alleged role in an attack on a military detachment in Benguet has drawn the attention of some of the country's amateur musicians.

On Friday, 30 members of punk and rock bands from Pangasinan, Metro Manila, Tarlac, Laguna and Davao City, set up camp at a park here to demand the release of the 11 backpackers who were accused of being New People's Army rebels.

Beverly Longid, vice chair of the Cordillera Human Rights Alliance, said the backpackers are musicians who belong to a crusade called "Punk's Not Dead."

Longid said the group arrived a few days early to see this year's Baguio Flower Festival parades, so they hitched a ride to Sagada, Mt. Province only to be detained at a police checkpoint in Buguias, Benguet, on Feb. 14.

The backpackers' parents appealed for their release, saying their children were tortured.

The Cordillera Peoples Democratic Front has claimed responsibility for the raid where two soldiers and a militiaman were killed.

The suspects bore signs of injuries, the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said on Wednesday.

Senior Supt. Marvin Bolabola, CIDG Cordillera director, said the medical reports indicated that the 11 backpackers, now detained at the Benguet Provincial Jail, bore bruises.

The Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag) and the CHRA are working to get two juveniles among this group of backpackers released to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said Longid.

Bolabola said he would help facilitate the transfer of a 15-year-old girl from Marikina City and a 16-year-old boy from Pasig City.

Flag and CHRA would sue police using a testimony made before the National Bureau of Investigation last week by Rundren Lao, 24, the backpacker who police accused as the leader of the rebels.

Lao jumped off a jeepney ferrying him to the Benguet prosecutor's office on Feb. 15, and surrendered to Ricardo Pangan, NBI Cordillera director, to testify that the backpackers had been tortured.

Charged with robbery with homicide were Lao; the two minors; Anderson Alonzo, 18, and Jethro Villagracia, 21, of Davao City; Ron Pandino, 19, of Laguna; Darwin Alagar, 20, of Pangasinan; Alduz Christian Mañosa, 18, Jefferson de la Rosa, 20, and Neil Russel Balajadia, 25, of Pasig City; and Arvie Nuñez, 21, of Lucena City.

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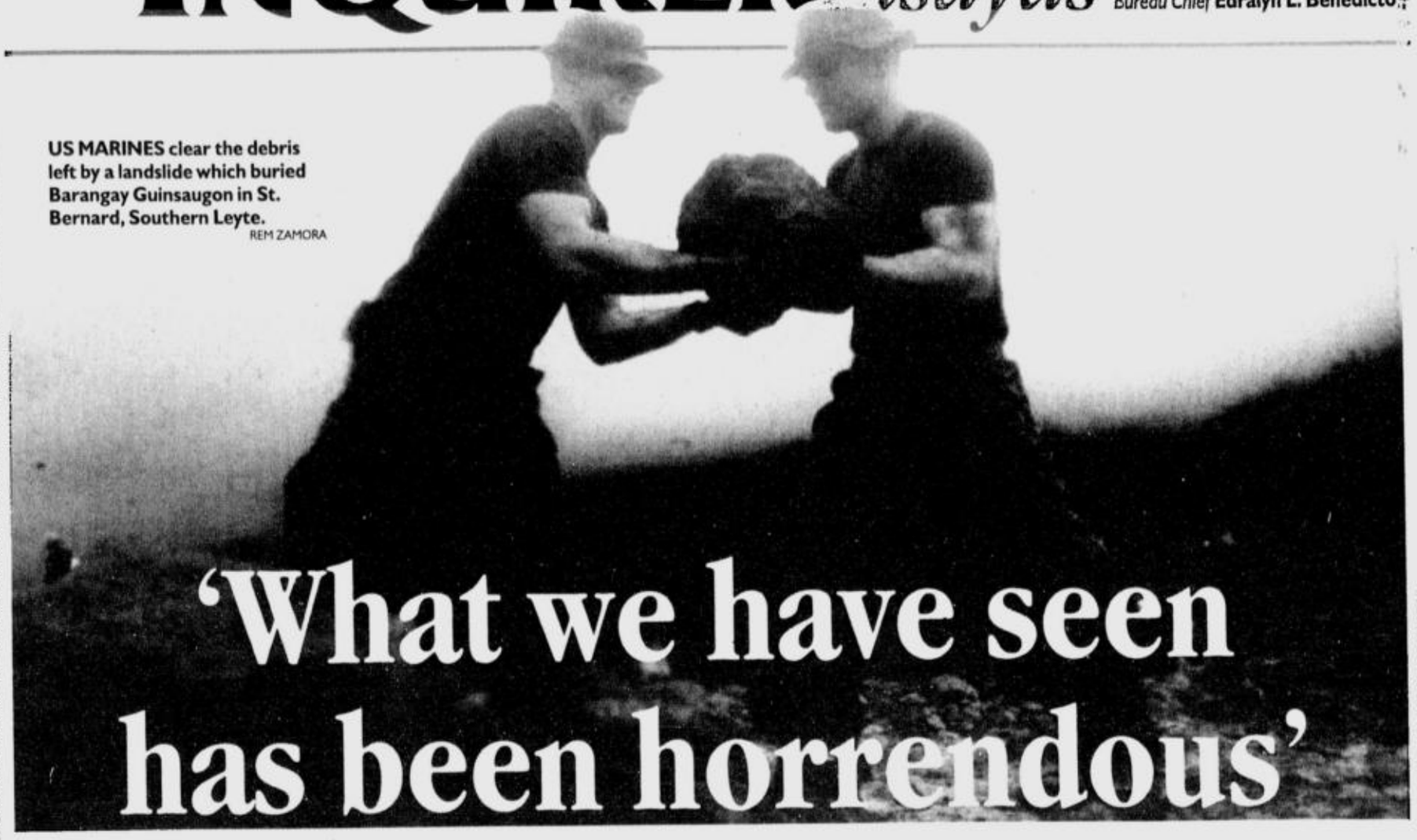

US MARINES clear the debris left by a landslide which buried Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte. REM ZAMORA

'What we have seen has been horrendous'

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

COMMANDER MANUEL "Don" Biadog, the Filipino-American chaplain of the United States 3rd Marine Expedition Force, has been in practically all situations with the troops.

As chaplain of the US Navy for 16 years, he had counseled those devastated in the 9/11 New York tragedy, traveled to help the poor in East Timor and provided spiritual guidance to soldiers in Iraq.

But in his work that has taken him to many countries around the world, never has the pain of the people been so close to home for him, Biadog said.

"This time I am working among my people, my blood brothers and sisters. My heart goes to the families of those who perished. What we have seen here has been horrendous," he said in a telephone interview.

Biadog said he stood in the midst of the mud-covered Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard town in Southern Leyte province on Feb. 22 and prayed that if there were people still alive beneath where he stood, they would not give up hope until rescuers got to them.

"The chances of finding people alive is getting slimmer as the days go by but we cannot and do not want to lose hope," said Biadog, 49, who was born in Talisay City, Negros Occidental.

Biadog was 23 when he left Negros Occidental for the United States 26 years ago, in 1979, to study to be a Protestant pastor on a scholarship in Southeastern College in Mississippi. He joined the US Navy in 1990. Biadog's mother, Emiliana, now lives in San Diego, California. His father, Manuel Sr., has since died.

On Feb. 22, Biadog also had another first: He met a president of the Philippines when Gloria Macapagal Arroyo visited ground zero in Guinsaugon.

"I have met two US presidents—Bill Clinton and George Bush—but never a Philippine president," he said. "My general took me to meet her and I told her I condoled with the Filipino people and she said 'Thank you, thank you for your help.'"

He also met and spoke with former First Lady Imelda Marcos who visited Guinsaugon on the same day Ms Arroyo came.

Another Filipino in the US Marine Corps helping in the rescue efforts in Guinsaugon is Staff Sgt. Trini Yabut, 34, of Bacolod City. Yabut, who joined the US Marines in 1990, is a member of the battalion landing team.

Yabut, in a separate phone interview, said there were about 10 Fil-Ams among the US forces in St. Bernard.

"I am proud of what I do. I am glad to be of help to my *kababayan* (countrymen). It is a great opportunity to come over and be of help," he said.

"The situation here is indescribable. I thought I was only being sent to help in a small landslide but what we found here was a massive tragedy," he added.

Biadog distributed packages to the survivors of the landslide that contained food, toiletries and slippers.

He said he has been helping in the rescue efforts, finding more aid to help the people and providing counseling to the rescuers.

Biadog was among the first 15 US Marines who arrived in Guinsaugon on Saturday, a day after the landslide.

He said he was chosen to join the US team because he speaks Ilonggo and Cebuano, and can serve as an interpreter.

While the 9/11 tragedy was devastating, what makes the Guinsaugon tragedy "horrendous" is the fact that 200 schoolchildren were among those buried beneath the mud, he said.

"They are buried 30 feet below ground zero with mud and boulders from one half of a mountain having covered the village," he said.

On Feb. 21, Biadog was among those who officiated at the mass burial of 37 of the dead found beneath the mud.

There were 500 US soldiers helping in the search on land while the rest were on a ship, he said.

The US troops work in shifts: "They work two days and are relieved by others while they rest on the ship, he said.

"Even if we find just one person still alive, our efforts amid the heat, rain, humidity and the danger of another landslide would have been worth it," he said.

Biadog said a US emergency response team at the disaster site, composed of ministers of different denominations and Catholic priests, were providing counseling to families of the victims as well as helping rescuers, health workers and representatives of nongovernment groups cope.

"We have to help them cope with the fact that what they see here one day is what will bother them in their sleep, and they will remember the smells and the grief," he said.

A history of geologic collapses in St. Bernard

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Tacloban City

THE LANDSLIDE-STRICKEN town of St. Bernard in Southern Leyte was created on Dec. 9, 1954, by virtue of Executive Order No. 84 signed by then President Ramon Magsaysay.

It was gerrymandered from its mother town of Cabalian, and was centered at the former Barrio Himatayon, Cabalian's oldest and most progressive village located west of the town.

Alberto E. Lesiguez, editor of the weekly The Tacloban Star and native of Cabalian, said the split from the mother town was engineered by a former Leyte governor who almost always lost his election battles to an opposing clan in the mother town.

A few years later, in June 1961, Cabalian itself changed its name to San Juan, citing negative connotations of its name, with the key word "bali," which in Bisayan means "to break or to cut."

Cabalian was the first large settlement in Leyte islands to be described in the chronicles of Conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi in 1565.

From their southern Samar anchorage, a team led by Martin de Goiti, riding on a small boat, searched for a settlement along the coast of the two main islands facing Leyte Gulf from where they could procure food for the hungry crew. They eventually came to the southern part of Leyte, to a sheltered bay, where they saw for the first time since their arrival a large village comprising of over 200 houses.

From the sea, the Spanish searchers saw scores of people engaged in some activities, while visible in the background were extensive rice fields. Near the shore were three large *paraw* being loaded with rice. Sacks and bundles of root crops piled on the beach.

The Spaniards concluded that the *paraw* were owned by outsiders coming to buy provisions. The name of the place they discovered was Cabalian.

Houses on slopes

The search team hurried back to their ships anchored near Guiuan, Samar. The entire expedition arrived in Cabalian in the morning of March 6, 1565. A ship's pilot described this Leyte village in its pristine condition as follows:

"When we anchored within view of Cabalian, we saw a thickly planted grove of coconut trees and houses between the trees. A little farther inland, a steep cliff and on the slopes more houses, and beyond this again many big rice fields and plots of millet and similar crops were to be seen. A great commotion broke out as our ships came to anchor, big crowds congregating among the houses and palm trees, gazing at the ships and apparently afraid to approach the shore. Pigs, chickens, and dogs were to be seen roving around everywhere."

When some officials of San Juan sought this author's help last year in seeking historical data that would serve as basis for their town's foundation day, we found records which showed that Cabalian was officially separated from the town of Malitbog on Sept. 15, 1860, and its parish was established four months later.

And so, San Juan celebrated its first

HISTORIC accounts indicate that the Feb. 17 landslide in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard was a reprise of the one that happened 260 years ago. JANI ARNAIZ

ever foundation day last Sept. 15, the old Cabalian's 145th anniversary.

This author coordinated the work on Cabalian history with Pablo Suarez, administrator of the San Juan Campus of Southern Leyte University (SLU).

One of the mysteries that Suarez and I have been trying to solve was the location of a missing landmark that was described in the Legazpi chronicles. This was a steep cliff a little farther inland on which slopes were found more houses, and beyond which there were many large rice fields and plots of millet.

Volcanic eruption

The insight came after I met Lesiguez at a press conference last Saturday. While discussing the St. Bernard landslides, he casually mentioned his hometown folklore about a volcanic eruption in Cabalian in the 17th century.

Suddenly, I had a specific location for a volcanic eruption in Leyte in 1749, which was reported by the Augustinian friar Agustin Maria de Castro sometime in 1770. He said, "In the year forty-nine [i.e., 1749], the volcano [presumably Mt. Cabalian, farther to the east of the town], exploded with fire from six mouths.

For two weeks the sun could not be seen by day, and the temblors lasted a whole year and continued later, resulting in pestilence, lightning and annoying rains of ash."

Before the above sentence, Father De Castro mentioned related disasters in the preceding years.

He said, "In the years of forty-three and forty-four [i.e., 1743-44], there were strong earthquakes that ruined many towns and a mountain collapsed about a hundred fathoms [i.e., 600 feet]."

It is probable that the collapsed mountain that Father De Castro mentioned was closer to Cabalian and was the same steep cliff mentioned in the Legazpi chronicles, but is now inexistent.

Last Friday's collapse of an entire side of Mt. Can-abag in St. Bernard seems to be just a reprise of the total collapse of a nearby mountain more than 260 years ago.

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22 nabbed in alleged Caloocan drug den

By Nancy C. Carvajal

AT LEAST 22 PERSONS WERE ARrested during a police raid Thursday evening at a compound in Caloocan City where illegal drugs were allegedly being sold.

A police report said the compound, which held several houses, was located in Barangay 66 Zone 6 District 11, Caloocan City. It reportedly had cubicles where one could buy or take illegal drugs.

The raid was conducted by combined operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Northern Police Distict anti-drugs operatives, who brought along drug sniffing dogs. Seven of those arrested were suspected maintainers of cubicles rented out to shabu users, according to Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Several sachets of white crystals believed to be methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and drug paraphernalia were seized in the raid.

Illegal drugs were found on two arrested suspects, Bataoil said. Some of those arrested, however, denied being users of being involved in the illegal drugs trade, the police official said.

Bataoil said the raid was carried out following several days of surveillance. The sale of illegal drugs was reported to be rampant in the compound.

"We received persistent reports that illegal drugs were openly sold and used in the area," Bataoil said.

He added that the raid was part of the district's continuing efforts to weed out notorious pushers in the northern part of Metro Manila.

All those arrested would undergo drug testing before charges are filed against them, according to officer on case PO2 Randulfo Samio Hipoloto.

AFTERNOON INTERLUDE
A child plays with his new toy as his grandfather looks on after a family picnic at the Luneta Park in Manila. RAFFY LERMA

NBI calls 2 more for stampede probe

By Margaux C. Ortiz

ANOTHER ABS-CBN OFFICIAL AND the director of the television game show "Wowowee" were ordered to appear at the National Bureau of Investigation next week as the probe on the stampede that killed 71 people continued.

NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala said they issued subpoenas to ABS-CBN assistant vice president for entertainment Socorro Vidanes and Wowowee director Norberto Vidanes. The head of Goldlink Security Agency, reportedly hired by the network to manage the Philsports Arena crowd on Feb. 4 when the stampede occurred, will also be summoned by the NBI.

The NBI earlier issued subpoenas to ABS-CBN executive vice president Charo Santos-Concio, Wowowee host Willie Revillame and seven others.

Condo construction halted

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA GOVERNMENT HAS SUSpended the operations of the building contractor of a condominium in Ermita district where a portion of Adriatico Street caved in Thursday afternoon.

Mayor Lito Atienza said he already ordered DM Consunji Inc., building contractor of the Adriatico Residences which is reportedly owned by Robinson's Land Corp., to temporarily stop the construction of the structure pending an investigation of the incident.

"In the interest of public safety, I ordered a halt in the operations until after the damages have been assessed and repaired," Atienza told reporters. He added that the contractor would have to answer for the damages, including the rebuilding of the wrecked portion of Adriatico Street and for the two wrecked vehicles "swallowed" by the ground.

The mayor said the city engineering officials' initial assessment showed that the cave in occurred when the 12-meter sheet pile covering the excavated portion of the area was partially dislodged from its position, weakening the ground structure.

"We are investigating what caused the sheet pile to give way leading to the collapse of the roadway. This may be an accident caused by a miscalculation," he added.

City Engineer Armand Andres said they had already formed a committee to investigate the incident. DM Consunji has yet to explain their version of what happened.

Witnesses claimed they saw a white L300 van and blue Kia Pregio sink into the ground around 4 p.m., a few minutes after they felt the ground shake violently "like an earthquake." No one was hurt in the incident which left a hole over five foot deep and more than six meters long. After two hours, a tower crane as tall as a 15-story building fell to the ground, leaving a hole about a foot deep.

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METROBRIEFS

Nipped in the bud

ILLUSTRATION ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

POLICE arrested Thursday a policeman and his companion for allegedly making money from lovers caught necking inside parked vehicles in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City . An entrapment operation conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) led to the arrest of P01 Rommel Ragos of the mobile patrol group and Dave Reyes, a city hall employee. They were caught receiving P2,000 in marked money from two CIDG operatives who pretended to be lovers. Mayor Freddie Tinga, meanwhile, called on the public to be vigilant in reporting illegal activities perpetrated by law enforcers in the city to local authorities. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Navotas drive vs illegal drugs

"BARKADA Kontra Droga," a community-based program to combat the drug menace, was formally launched in Navotas recently. Mayor Toby Tiangco, together with Vice Mayor PJ Javier, municipal officials, local police, barangay and Sanggunlang Kabataan officials, school administrators, religious leaders and non-government organizations, including Dangerous Drugs Board and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency officials have joined forces to ensure the success of the campaign. A total of 198 drug suspects, 16 of them drug pushers, have been arrested by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Navotas police during the last quarter of the year 2005. Navotas police chief Supt Genesis Tolejano said this positive development showed that the local police remains on target with Tiangco's objective to make the municipality "drug-free."

Poor Cabinet member now rich

DURING HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY THE Senate on the modernization of the North and South Luzon Railway systems, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon rejected the proposal to clear the railway tracks of squatters.

The senator is trying to obstruct progress. He should know that unless the squatters are relocated to sites provided by the government, China and South Korea, financiers of the two projects, will back out from the venture.

And where does that leave us? Back to the Stone Age of dilapidated, turtle-slow trains on worn-out tracks simply because those living along the tracks refuse to budge.

Observers say there are 11,000 squatter families along the railroad tracks in Muntinlupa City which Biazon's son, Ruffy, represents in Congress.

Hmmmm.

* * *

THE COUNTRY'S fight against pirated optical materials seems to have gained ground.

Last week, the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) downgraded the Philippines from its "priority watch list" to "watch list."

Credit should go to the fund-strapped Optical Media Board (OMB) under its chair, Edu Manzano. It must be noted that the country has been on the priority list for five years, even before Edu's stint at the OMB.

Unfortunately, crab mentality again entered the picture. There is now talk that some quarters want Manzano replaced by fellow actor and former Caloocan City mayor Rey Malonzo, a *kabalen* of the President.

Sources say that the man behind the move is Sen. Bong Revilla.

If true, this is simply irrational. It has befuddled even people at the US Embassy. Manzano does well in his work and now they want him replaced?

* * *

WHY is it that most people in government think their position allows them to acquire ill-gotten wealth?

Take the case of a Cabinet member who was able to buy a unit in a very expensive condominium in Pasig City a few months after he was given a sinecure in a sequestered firm.

Before he came to Manila, this guy was so poor he couldn't even afford to buy cigarettes; he mooched from others. Now, he chain-smokes an imported brand.

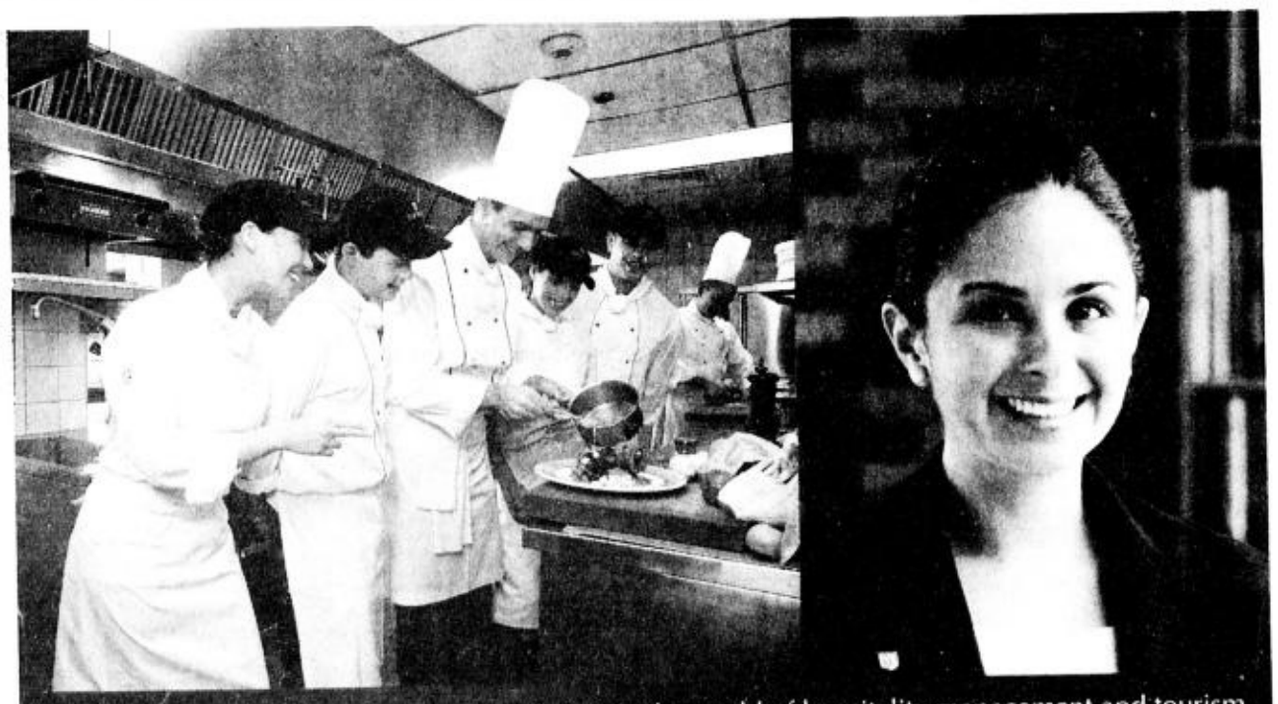
Before, he commuted to his work when he was in the province. Now, he has two luxury cars. His wife uses the government vehicle issued to him.

This guy was notorious in his province for shaking down business establishments and the Chinese community. Now, he milks the sequestered firm dry, along with his cohorts.

President Macapagal-Arroyo isn't very discriminating in choosing members of her official family.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



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FEBRUARY 25, DAY FOUR

By PDI Research

FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY: On Feb. 25, 1986, this country, if briefly, had two presidents, (right) President Marcos with Imelda greeting his supporters after his oath-taking at the Palace and Cory Aquino taking her oath as president with Ninoy's mother, Doña Aurora, holding the Bible. (Far left) Winning team of Cory and Doy Laurel flashing the Laban sign.

Midnight

Marcos loyalist soldiers fire through barbed wire, injuring a number of people on Nagtahan Street. Some of Marcoses' belongings are taken out of Malacañang.

3:30 a.m.

Marines rejoice as orders to attack Camp Crame are canceled.

3:45 a.m.

Reinforcements on board planes ordered by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver head for Clark Air Base, where they stay for the duration of the revolt.

5 a.m.

On phone to Washington, President Marcos asks US Sen. Paul Laxalt if he should resign. Laxalt's reply: "I think you should cut, and cut cleanly. The time has come."

Marcos tells Labor Minister Blas Ople who's lobbying in Washington for the Marcos regime, he is not stepping down because First Lady Imelda Marcos does not want him to.

5:30 a.m.

Marcos himself gives go-signal for his family to prepare to leave.

6 a.m.

Rebel soldiers storm Channel 9's transmitter tower, which is being held by loyalist troops. Sounds of gun battle are heard at Aquino residence on Times Street, Quezon City, where Corazon Aquino and her children are.

8 a.m.

People are called to guard Club Filipino in San Juan in case Marcos attempts to disrupt Aquino's inauguration as President.

10:15 a.m.

Aquino arrives at Club Filipino. Opposition lawyer Neptali Gonzales reads resolution proclaiming her and former Sen. Salvador Laurel as duly elected President and Vice President, respectively.

10:46 a.m.

Aquino is sworn into office by Senior Justice Claudio Teehankee. Assembled crowd breaks into protest song "Bayan Ko." AFP Vice Chief of Staff Fidel Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile join singing with hands raised in Laban "L" sign.

11:45 a.m.

Marcos enters Malacañang's Ceremonial Hall for his inauguration.

11:55 a.m.

As Marcos raises his hand to take his oath, live coverage is abruptly ended with perfect shot fired at transmitter simultaneously shutting down Channels 2, 9 and 13.

Chief Justice Ramon Aquino is called back for reenactment of swearing-in before movie cameras.

Marcoses proceed to balcony and wave at some 2,500 people assembled below. Crowd cheers: "Martial law! Martial law!"

3:45 p.m.

Loyalist soldiers try to ram through barricades set up at Tomas Morato/Timog junction in Quezon City, but "people power" prevails. On Nagtahan, pro-Aquino groups and loyalists coming from Marcos' inauguration clash.

4:30 p.m.

Imee Marcos' husband Tommy Manotoc relays offer of US Brig. Gen. Ted Allen to use American helicopters or boats to move Marcos from Palace.

5 p.m.

Marcos calls Enrile again to coordinate his departure from Malacañang. His aides start packing not only clothes and books but also boxes of money stored in his bedroom since start of election campaign.

Prime Minister Cesar Virata negotiates Marcos' departure with Aquino.

6:30 p.m.

Imee and Irene Marcos plead with their father to leave Malacañang after he tells his remaining men that he has decided to die there.

7 p.m.

US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth asks Aquino if Marcos can be allowed two days in Paoay, Ilocos Norte, before heading abroad. To prevent possible regrouping of Marcos loyalists, Aquino refuses.

In Malacañang, pieces of luggage are loaded on boats, which proceed to Pangarap golf course where US helicopters are to collect Marcoses.

7:30 p.m.

Families of Ver and Eduardo Cojuangco motor to Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

8:40 p.m.

Convoy of heavily secured vehicles make beeline for Clark.

8:45 p.m.

Marcoses and other government officials board helicopters, some of their possessions loaded along with them.

9:05 p.m.

First of helicopters leaves Palace grounds.

Shortly, crowd near Malacañang rejoices over reports that Marcoses had left.

9:45 p.m.

Marcos lands in Clark and is met by Bosworth. People in the area mark his arrival with chants of "Cory! Cory!"

9:52 p.m.

Radio dzRH announces: "The Marcoses have fled the country."

10 p.m.

US Air Force TV station FEN confirms Marcos' departure.

11:30 p.m.

People wrench Palace gates open.

Marcos loyalists inside Malacañang escape in all directions, with members of Palace household and security men jumping into murky Pasig River to flee angry crowd.

Looters and vandals enter Malacañang. Ramos' men move in to secure premises.

Officials who withdrew support from Marcos: Brig. Gen. Felix Brawner of elite First Scout Ranger Brigade; Brig. Gen. Carlos Martel, Special Mission Wing of Air Force.

Sources: "Chronology of a Revolution" by Angela Stuart Santiago, "Walang Himala: Himagsikan sa Edsa" by Angela Stuart Santiago, "The Quartet Tiger Moon" by Quijano de Manila, "People Power: The Philippine Revolution of 1986," "Bayan Ko," and PDI archives

THE MILITARY

Salute between an officer and gentleman

By Maj. Gen. Wifredo D. Cruz (Ret.)

(The author was a Philippine Constabulary colonel and AFP deputy chief of staff for logistics during the Edsa I uprising; he retired in December 1994 as the PNP's director for investigation with a rank equivalent to that of major general in the Armed Forces.)

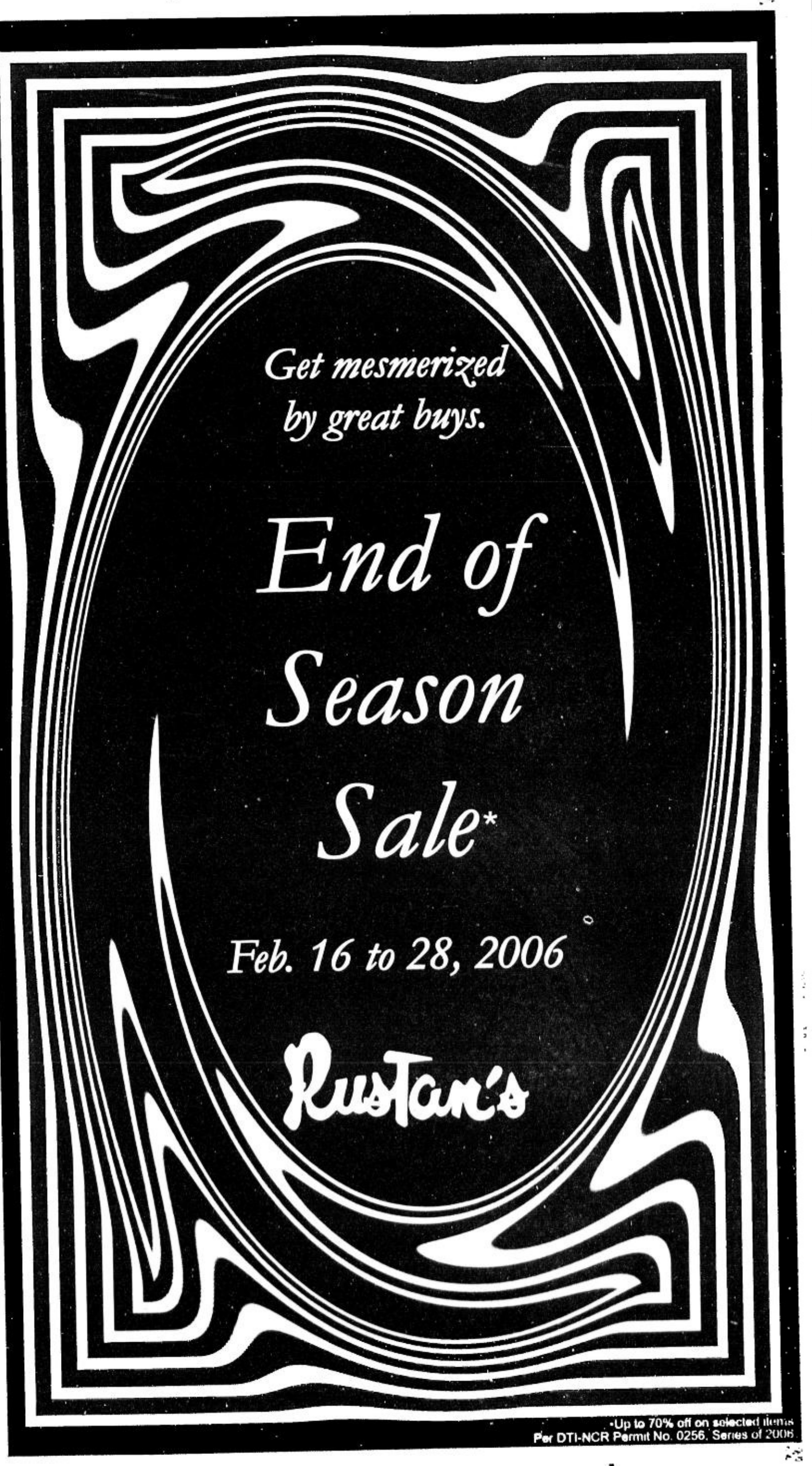
ALTHOUGH CAMP AGUINALDO HAD ALREADY surrendered to the New Armed Forces of the Philippines, no such decision had been made by the AFP Logistics Command when Gen. Ramos designated me to take over command of that unit.

With two Philippine Constabulary Special Action Force teams, I crossed Edsa from Camp Crame to Camp Aguinaldo on foot in the company of Minister Enrile and Colonel Honasan, and surveyed the AFP LogCom perimeter.

Since Philippine Marines were guarding the facility, I decided against entering the compound by force, even with "People Power" backing us, because of the probability of bloodshed. Instead, after finding out that the commander of the Marines was Col. Sierra Jose, a member of PMA Class 1970, I got in touch with him through a close friend of his.

I found him to be a true officer and a gentleman. I told him of the situation prevailing in Malacañang and Camp Aguinaldo. The presence of so many people with me must have moved him.

"Sir, this is not a surrender. We will just leave and return to our barracks with our firearms," he said. I nodded and we saluted.



THE MEDIA

When Marcos saw the People Power video

By Salvii Casino

WHILE PHOTOGRAPHing the happy faces of people power Edsa, Ed Garvida and I found ourselves clambering aboard one of three open trucks with heavily armed rebel soldiers at noon on Feb. 24, 2006.

The destination turned out to be the Broadcast Center on Bohol Avenue where other rebel soldiers were holed out since taking over the government-owned Maharlika Broadcasting System, or GTV Channel 4. Like ants crawling out from everywhere, people continued massing outside,cheering and clapping their hands.

Embracing

As the gates opened, all of us surged inside, yelling and embracing one another like the victors in war movies.

Inside, I was elated to find many friends in the creative media. Johnny Manahan was there. Mitos Villareal. Orly Punzalan. Harry Gasser. Some production hands I had worked with in Kanlaon Broadcasting System, which owned BBC CITY 2, RPN TV 9 and IBC 13 in Broadcast City, were also there.

We agreed that to help the revolution, we would have to power up the TV channel, which had been turned off by the rebel soldiers.

Punzalan told us he had seen some broadcast engineers in the crowd and he would form a technical group to switch on and man at least one production studio, and a Technical Operations Center, which is the heart of any broadcast engineering operations.

I volunteered to organize and direct the revolution's newscasts and on-air information dissemination. Ed would be the head news writer.

I asked Johnny, instead of Mitos, who were both multi-awarded TV directors, to handle the live "entertainment" component of our broadcast. The other producers in the group would phone and round up as many entertainment stars and other personalities as they could.

LIBERATION of GTV4 came at a cost of the ultimate sacrifice.

I then asked Mitos, who came with her own broadcast-grade TV camera and crew, to do her best to enter Camp Crame, commandeer a military helicopter and shoot the mass of humanity along Edsa in one continuous sweep.

Televised Revolt

In no time the cast of the "Champoy" TV show and the Apo Hiking Society were appearing live on camera. Soon, other entertainment personalities, big and small, came to participate in the live historic broadcast.

It was the happiest and most entertaining televised revolution the world had ever seen.

I set up a news base inside the Channel 4 newsroom on the second floor. Our problem was how to deliver as much news and information as we could with practically no equipment at hand, save for a couple of telephones and some typewriters.

The electronic news gathering cameras were all locked up inside individual lockers in the newsroom and I refused to break the locks lest we be accused of destroying public property.

We did not have any radio, either, to monitor Radyo Bandido for news about the revolution. Nor was there any feed from the wire services.

Last resort

Our last resort was the Far East Network. I phoned my household to record on the home VHS and audiotape systems FEN broadcasts of breaking Philippine news reports from CNN, BBC, NHK, as well as other American, European, and Australian networks, and feed me back everything through the Channel 4 telephones and transport over to me the recorded tapes.

What news we aired on the liberated Channel 4 emanated from the international media's coverage of breaking People Power events. Their footages were transmitted via satellite for broadcast in their respective countries. The same broadcasts were picked up and re-broadcast by FEN in Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

In short, the news that we aired about the 1986 Philippine People Power Revolution had to travel around the world first before we were able to broadcast it to our own countrymen.

Jaws dropped

At sundown, Mitos' group arrived from Camp Crame with at least two hours of varied People Power footage, and the most important one of all, the helicopter video of the mammoth Edsa crowd.

Our jaws dropped as we confirmed the enormous number of freedom-loving Filipinos massed on Edsa, from North Avenue to Broadcast Center to Cubao to Camp Crame to Ortigas Avenue to Shaw Boulevard to the Guadalupe bridge, with nary a space in between.

Much later on, I would be told by a former Malacañang official that when they finally saw the footage for the first time around 9 o'clock that night, he glimpsed tears forming in the dictator's eyes.

'Sorry I missed the revolution, Ninoy'

By Bill Formoso
PDI Night Editor

TO MY EVERLASTING regret, I missed the grandmother of all people power revolutions.

When the topic comes up around this time of year on the anniversary of Edsa I, the people around me start recalling where they were and what they were doing—on Edsa of course. They talk of how they had felt finally kicking out a dictator, feelings that I shared but did not get to experience.

I was 10,000 miles away when Edsa I happened. My wife Chelo, daughter Beia and I were living in Sacramento, California, and Chelo was six months pregnant with our son Gabriel, who would be born in May.

After Ninoy Aquino was assassinated in August 1983 and the Filipino people did not rise up soon enough against Ferdinand Marcos, I figured the strongman was going to be around a while longer—perhaps up till the time we planned to return home to the Philippines for good, which was in 1995.

While we slept

So when I turned on CNN on the morning of Feb. 22, 1986, I was surprised by the video coming out of Manila. The events had transpired while we on the other side of the world had slept.

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos had turned on their patron Marcos and Jaime Cardinal Sin was rallying his flock to Edsa to protect the two men and their supporters who had holed up in Camp Aguinaldo from the tanks Marcos and his chief enforcer Fabian Ver had sent to annihilate them.

Cory Aquino, Ninoy's widow and runaway winner of the snap elections Marcos had called and then so brazenly stolen just weeks earlier, was safely tucked away in a convent in Cebu.

Shock and awe

Chelo and I sat in front of the TV in shock and awe. Then she began to cry. "We should be there, we should be there," she sobbed.

Yes, we should have been there. Chelo after all, and Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, the editor in chief of this paper, at the time the three of us were working at the Bulletin Today in the '70s, were known as the only staffers with "balls" for continually testing the limits in the Marcos-controlled press. If anyone deserved to be at Edsa, it was Chelo—Letty as we later learned was already there in a big way.

Instead, we had to content ourselves with monitoring CNN and making what seemed like a million phone calls to Manila to get updates. Our siblings, cousins, nephews and nieces, second cousins, friends, everyone, came back the phone reports, was at Edsa.

CNN, a fledgling network (ridiculed as Chicken Noodle Network) at the time everyone said wouldn't fly, confirmed what we were hearing.

There were Enrile, Ramos and a young Gringo Honasan crossing over to Camp Crame from Aguinaldo, where it would be more conducive to making a last stand, CNN said. That did not sound too reassuring. There was the crowd—a huge mass of humanity—parting to let them through. We scanned the crowd for familiar faces.

On the second or third day of the uprising, we went to Halo-Halo, a local Filipino restaurant, where we met up with other Pinoys to say prayers for our country, exchange stories about what was happening back home, and eat Filipino food.

The following day, CNN showed Marcos overruling a sputtering Ver who was strongly lobbying to bomb the turncoats, and collaterally the people on Edsa who had become their human shields.

Suddenly the transmission was lost, obviously sabotaged, and the thought that Marcos may have given in to Ver had us on edge for a while.

Dancing in streets

When the coverage resumed, CNN showed the people dancing in the streets and then in Malacañang where the half-eaten scrambled eggs and caviar the cameras kept focusing on were like the final insult heaped on the Filipino people by the Marcoses before they finally fled the Palace.

Then there was Ramos leaping in the air, not once or twice, but enough times to leave him panting. And there was Enrile, who had spent much of martial law by Marcos's side, appearing to not quite know what to do with himself.

And then, and this was priceless, there were Marcos and party landing in Hawaii and being welcomed like tourists with the obligatory leis by the state governor and his wife.

It was finally over—14 years of one-man rule that had brought the country to the brink of hell. We ate at IHOP (International House of Pancakes) that night with some friends to celebrate.

At the restaurant the waitress asked if we were Filipinos. The daughter of one friend, who was born in the Philippines, said no, but our daughter Beia, who was born in New York and was all of three and a half, quickly said "Yes." We were so proud of Beia.

'You did great'

"You guys did great," the waitress said.

The next morning, my bosses, a father and son tandem, congratulated me at work—for what I didn't know, I was thousands of miles away—but it felt good just the same. "Way to go, Bill," they said, flashing their thumbs.

Other Filipino friends, and Pinoys in accounts in Fil-Am newspapers, told of entering restaurants, elevators and other public places and being congratulated as soon it became apparent they were Filipinos.

Yes, it felt good to be a Filipino then, even in America.

What happened?

As a postscript, a few years later, when the news broke that Marcos's widow Imelda and their three children had been allowed back in the Philippines, those same bosses asked me: "What happened, Bill?" I could only shrug.

Thus when Edsa II happened, Chelo and I made sure we were there with Beia, Gabriel, our siblings, nephews and nieces. And we didn't leave until Joseph Estrada did.

Still, from the stories I hear around this time of year, Edsa II could never compare with Edsa I.

That is why, to my utter regret, and to the man who sparked it all, "Sorry I missed the revolution, Ninoy."

THE PEOPLE

The way to a soldier's heart

By Ager Valdez

THE PIERCING SMELL OF TEAR GAS DRIFTED TO MY house two blocks from Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo and woke me up at 6 a.m. from a 30-minute sleep, all I had for the night.

It was a sneak attack by a company of soldiers in two columns that was out to break up the thinning crowd fronting 15th Avenue and Santolan road.

Together with my wife, two children and brother, I rushed to the area, joining those who had come to reinforce the crowd.

We fell on our knees and started to pray the rosary in front of the soldiers carrying rifles and waiting for orders from their commanding officer.

Other people hurt by the tear gas bombs were gearing for a fight but a man with a megaphone pleaded with them to calm down. He was speaking mostly in English and his message wasn't getting through.

I took hold of the megaphone and asked the crowd to settle down. I told the people to pool together whatever food they had and to offer it to the soldiers, who probably still did not have their breakfast and lacked sleep.

Food came from the nearby stores, a bakery and street vendors. Packs of cigarettes and coffee came.

I approached the commanding officer with my ammunition—food for all soldiers.

The commander at first refused, but I persuaded him to take a cigarette and lit it for him. As if on cue, the soldiers put down their armalites, accepted our coffee, sandwiches and native pastries.

We beat back the sneak attack with prayers and food.

We cried shamelessly

By Albert E. Acuña

I WAS A JUNIOR BANK OFficer for a local commercial bank assigned at the Greenhills area during the Edsa revolt in 1986.

The bank holidays gave us so much time to be at Edsa—for a picnic or just a stroll around with staff, friends, relatives and bank clients. We coordinated our activities daily and at most times slept in the lobby of the bank if we were too tired.

We always carried with us our transistor radios, some food stuff and all things in yellow to Edsa. We followed celebrities walking from Edsa Crossing to Crame up to Cubao.

We offered ourselves as volunteers to nuns and the seminarians and prayed with them.

One time, we lined up behind a long throng of people in the middle of Edsa and realized we had to shell out coins and for a chance to slap the pictures of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos.

Who would say that during that time, a revolution could turn into partying, concerts and socializing and getting to know a lot of people?

We were truly ecstatic to hear that Marcos had left the country and cried shamelessly over our heroic deed.

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Last-ditch effort to mobilize

From page A1

yansang Makabayan (Bayan) managed to mobilize its forces along España in Sampaloc, Manila.

At about this time, barricades had been set up on España from the University of Santo Tomas up to M. de la Fuente. Several passenger buses whose labor union belonged to KMU were even used to block the intersection of Gov. Forbes and España.

It was also during this time that Bayan and KMU announced a nationwide strike the following day to force Marcos out.

I later learned that the strike was aimed at retaking the initiative of leading the masses by the NatDem (which, in turn, was led by the Communist Party of the Philippines). This was obviously lost when the left failed to join Edsa as a result of the flawed decision by the higher-ups to boycott the Feb. 7 snap elections.

I was among those who joined the NatDem-led mobilization in España since I was a member of one of the numerous church-based institutions. I was only 18 years old and had just left the CICM seminary in Baguio City.

Glaring absence

The absence of NatDem groups in Edsa was very glaring since everybody knew that it chose to boycott the snap elections. I even remembered a group of red banner-waving workers affiliated with KMU marching around Edsa but were asked to stop by the rally leaders who turned out to be social democrats—the archenemies of NatDems.

Only the NatDem-led anti-election fraud group Tanggol Karapatan (Tapat) was able to hang its banner in front of a gasoline station because its leader was a nun, Sr. Mercy Contreras who was very visible in documenting cases of electoral fraud.

Later, CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison would also point to the presence of Tapat in Edsa as proof that the Nat-Dems were not absent in Edsa.

On España, it was late in the afternoon that Bayan, KMU and its other affiliate groups in the religious sector started the march on Malacañang, only to be blocked by soldiers still loyal to Marcos on J.P. Laurel.

Malacañang takeover

The Nat-Dem group had planned to hold a vigil here similar to Edsa thinking that when Marcos finally departed, the left would be the first to set foot and eventually "take over" Malacañang.

Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos's statement over PTV 4 and Radyo Bandido after the Marcoses left made Bayan leaders make a detour. Ramos was quoted as telling his soldiers not to allow the "communists" to set foot in the Palace grounds.

Upon hearing Ramos' statement, Bayan leader Lean Alejandro announced that our group would not proceed to Malacañang and instead march back to España. It was then suspected that a scenario was being prepared to further isolate Bayan-KMU.

From España, the religious sector to which our group belonged proceeded to E. Rodriguez going to Mt. Carmel Church in Broadway. Unlike the people around us rejoicing because of the news that Marcos had left, sadness was written on the faces of most of our fellow church activists, as if someone had died.

I even heard some crying and blaming the boycott policy as the reason why the Left, specifically the Communist Party, failed to lead the masses in such a historic moment.

Bitter debate

A debate between two known responsible cadres of the underground Christians for National Liberation even erupted during an impromptu discussion but was stopped after cooler heads came in.

One of the cadres eventually was ordained a religious missionary priest while the other would later be arrested by intelligence operatives along with his wife in 1991 on suspicion of being leaders of the banned CNL.

The bitter debate in the national democratic movement over the boycott error resulting in the failure to foresee an Edsa-type uprising would eventually lead to a split in the CPP and within the NatDem movement eight years later.

THE PEOPLE

'We closed our eyes to soldiers beating us'

By Jake Reyes

(The writer, a college student then, is now a hotel training manager.)

AS EARLY AS 3 A.M. ON DAY FOUR, WE HEARD ABOUT A company of soldiers coming from the Libis area who would try to secure Gate 1 of Camp Aguinaldo. We made preparations to resist them.

At 6 a.m. three groups, myself included, went to the corner of 20th Avenue and Santolan.

There, we saw amid the smoke of tear gas canisters soldiers overpowering pockets of civilians as they pushed toward Camp Aguinaldo. The soldiers stopped when they saw us.

We stared at each other for a few seconds, then I heard our leader shout "*Upo* (Sit)!" We all sat down.

The soldiers started beating their shields with their truncheons, creating a very intimidating noise.

I remember I closed my eyes and prayed that the noise would stop. It did not. It even became louder. When I opened my eyes, the soldiers were just five feet away from us.

I felt a tugging at my right arm. My companion was trying to break free of our linked arm formation. My mind went blank. I was seeing things in slow motion. I remember pulling my companion back and shouting at him to close his eyes.

I did the same and felt a shield being shoved at my face, pushing me until I fell down. I felt boots kicking me in my legs. Slowly, I got back on my feet again, then I felt a truncheon hit me on my left shoulder.

I then saw our line had been broken as soldiers pushed on.

We slowly and painfully moved back to Gate 1.

A car—if I'm not mistaken a Beetle—was parked horizontally in front of the spot where we next positioned ourselves. We then took thick nylon ropes and tied them on two electric posts to serve as additional barriers.

Before we knew it, there were soldiers behind us. It seemed another company of soldiers went all the way around us and struck behind through Murphy market on 15th Avenue.

Pandemonium broke out. I yelled at the soldiers not to strike the women and used my body to protect one. I don't even remember getting hit anymore. I started to drag this poor woman to the side and told her to get out of the place.

We started to run toward Edsa. Some people met us and brought us to a makeshift medical facility. We didnt even notice it but we were suffering from tear gas inhalation.

I had a cut on my head and was bleeding. My hand was swollen as well as the left side of my face. My companion was limping from truncheon blows and was crying.

I was told that negotiators had gone to talk to the officers. And then it was over. Just like that. After 20 minutes of fending off the soldiers, it was peaceful and quiet again.

Why Left was left behind: Red leaders surprised, stuck to Maoist strategy

From page A1

For Alex Padilla, then secretary general (on-leave) of the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Peace and Democracy, the Left was left behind. "Definitely," he said.

He said the Left led the struggle against Marcos and the US for the longest time. "It always took the initiative. The politicians would go to the Left if they wanted some mass support.

Maoist strategy

"But the strategy of the Left has always been the Maoist strategy, from the countryside. It always thought that urban unrest-insurrection—was always elitist and should not be supported," he said.

Padilla said the Left was not able to adapt to the modern thinking that "you have to get power where the power was, which is in the cities and the urban areas."

Lower units were left to their own devices in a fast-changing situation that was Edsa.

Without a go signal from the party executive committee, key members of the United Front Commission, which had sought a broad alliance against the "US-Marcos regime," called on a multisectoral organization to support the people at Edsa.

A senior UFC member at the time recalled that he was on a jeep when he heard on the radio Juan Ponce Enrile announcing his breakaway from Marcos.

"When I reached home, I got so many calls... asking the UFC what was happening. I said "this is the end [of Marcos]. That night we waited for instructions. There were none," said Roger (not his real name) the former UFC member, who doesn't want to be named because of his work with a nongovernment organization.

"Later, the party secretary general came over. He said 'the chairman *di makausap* (could not be contacted), shocked.'"

"We said, 'If the leadership will not act, the core of the UFC will. So the next day, for the first time, we went to the [name of organization] headquarters, surprising its officials. Our directive was for it to go to Edsa," Roger said.

Supporting Fidel Ramos, then the vice chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and Enrile, then Marcos's defense minister, did not come easy for many activists.

"Why would we support them? Let them fight each other. They are our enemies," said Etta Rosales, then the director of the Popular Struggle Commission of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), which boycotted the snap presidential election.

Her task was to coordinate mobilizations like *welgang bayan* against the regime, while the political opposition was calling for civil disobedience.

Bayan believed that Marcos would not give way to Aquino. "Then the US would still support Marcos. It was like a religion isn't it? Dogmatically, we held on to that analysis," Rosales said.

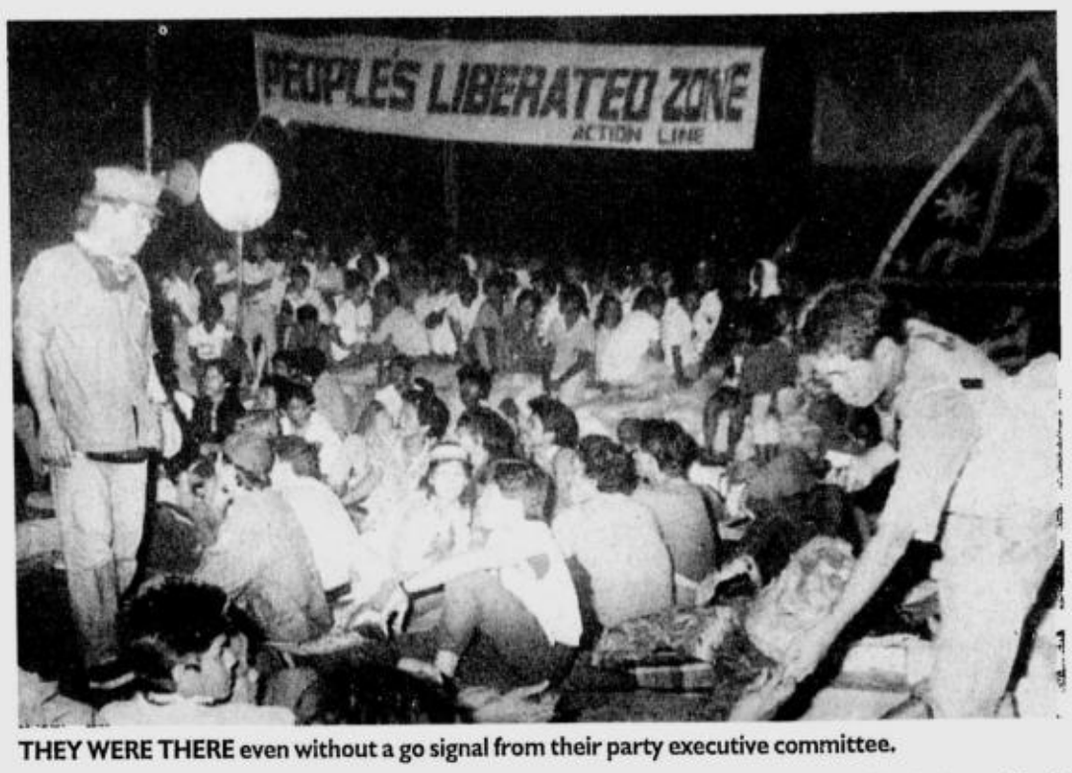
Anathema

She said supporting the military at the time was anathema to Bayan. "If we cannot accept Cory, what more the military? What will we do at Edsa?" said Rosales, who was detained and tortured during the early days of martial law.

She changed her mind about Edsa when she saw the multitudes.

"We were really disoriented. We went to Edsa to take a peek. It was beautiful, amazing. People were felling trees. Of course that's against environmental concerns, but at that moment they were cutting down big trees to block the tanks. We went around and saw that Edsa was full of people," she said.

"Even my mother came. It was the most natural thing for them to defend the military [men], who defected from Marcos. They were telling us, 'why don't you give them roses?'" said Rosales, now a member of the House of Representatives.



THEY WERE THERE even without a go signal from their party executive committee.

Alex Padilla, now an undersecretary at the Department of Health, said he would go to Edsa to observe and to hold meetings.

"Everything was moving fast. We had to adapt. This was something new to us," he said. "We thought that it was going to be a long, arduous struggle from the countryside."

He did not go to Edsa to support Ramos and Enrile whose split with Marcos he viewed with suspicion.

Kibitzer

"I was an *usisero* (kibitzer)," he said. But once there, he began to realize the significance of the event.

"Suddenly, I felt I was partly responsible for this. It was the culmination of all your work in removing Marcos," said Padilla.

"Even my parents who were at that time 70 plus were also there because, you know, Filipinos, . . . in times of trouble, [hold a] fiesta! My siblings also came...There was no feeling that they were in danger. Or even if there was, we couldn't care. I would not have died for Enrile or Ramos. I was in the periphery anyway, but I wanted to be there as a part of history," he said.

While officials of other organizations of the Left went to Edsa out of curiosity, leaders of the Kilusang Mayo Uno decided in a snap to proceed to the highway.

The KMU national council was crafting a program when Jaime Cardinal Sin appealed to the people to go to Edsa. Right then and there, the council heeded the prelate's call, said Crispin Beltran, then KMU vice chair.

Spark

"As if a spark was triggered 'Let's do away with this meeting and proceed to Edsa,'" Beltran said of how the council came to the decision. "In the same way, the workers came in droves."

With red banners, more than 30,000 KMU members and supporters marched toward Edsa on Feb. 22, said Beltran, now a member of the House of Representatives.

"The KMU decision to join Edsa [on the first day] was an independent decision," he said. But the group consulted its allies later.

Beltran said Bayan, an umbrella organization to which the KMU belongs, later affirmed the KMU decision. "Most of the organizations under Bayan joined," he said.

"At Santolan, policemen and soldiers handed over their guns to us," Beltran said. "They surrendered their weapons and joined the people."

The sea of people at Edsa coupled with the urging of former Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, then Bayan chair, prompted other Bayan officials to finally throw their support behind Ramos.

Tañada and Bayan president Lean Alejandro paid a call on Ramos, who was holed up in Camp Crame.

"We're together this time," Rosales said, quoting what Ramos had told Tañada, a nationalist opposed to Marcos and to the presence of US military bases in the country.

Other forces of the Left responded to Sin's appeal.

Most organized

On the night Sin made the call over Radio Veritas, the religious sector hied off to Edsa. "The most organized group was the Christians for National Liberation (CNL). On its own, it made the decision—the Church Bureau actually," Roger said.

"The group of seminarians who blocked the Marines on the early morning after Sin's appeal was under the command of the CNL."

He said the health group sent ambulances to Edsa and many activists went on their own, with the understanding that they would link up with the others.

By Jose Maria Sison's reckoning, Bayan forces accounted for a fifth of the people at Edsa.

"[They] constituted the hard core of the masses (at least 20 percent of the entire masses) at Edsa at the peak," said Sison, founding chair of the CPP, who was then a political detainee.

Sison, now based in the Netherlands and chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, said Bayan was decisive in rallying its organized masses immediately to the front of Isetann Cubao upon the call of Agapito "Butz" Aquino for help.

> 'The assessment that the CCP leadership was left behind is correct but the cadres, individual organizations were all over Edsa.'

Sison also noted that 500 members of Bayan Quezon City accompanied Col. Mariano Santiago to capture the TV Channel 4 compound.

Main force at Mendiola

Although they were just part of the multitudes at Edsa, the people led by members and supporters of Bayan constituted the main force at Mendiola Bridge, a stone throw from Malacañang.

Bayan chapters in Manila, Makati and Quezon City and KMU marched on Mendiola, presenting themselves as a "counterforce."

Sison said the mobilization at Mendiola was pivotal in driving Marcos out of the Palace.

"You should not airbrush the masses led by the progressive religious of CNL, the KMU and LFS (League of Filipino Students) who concentrated on Mendiola and then on the gates of the presidential palace after they valiantly did away with the barricades.

"If those that assembled at Edsa were decisive in protecting the failed coup leaders, rallying the biggest mass of demonstrators and encouraging the military to withdraw support from Marcos, those that assembled in front of the Palace were decisive in compelling Marcos to flee after a RAM-piloted helicopter dropped grenades on the Palace roof and the US announced that it would withdraw military support from Marcos should he use force to stay in power," Sison said.

Mementos destroyed

Beltran was among the many who were able to enter Malacañang."It was in disarray. We destroyed the mementos of Marcos."

"Later, Ramos asked us to respect Malacañang. Not Marcos, but Malacañang," Beltran said. "Imagine, the arsenal in Malacañang almost fell into our hands."

Former and current leaders of the Left are divided over the view that the Left was left behind at Edsa.

"The assessment that the CPP leadership was left behind is correct. But the cadres, the organizations were all over the place," Roger said.

He said the leadership did not anticipate the events and could not respond immediately.

Caught flatfooted

Like the national leadership of the CPP, the party's Manila-Rizal regional committee was caught flatfooted. "For all its talk of insurrection, it did not know how to respond. Its ABB (Alex Boncayao Brigade, an urban partisan unit) lay idle," Roger said.

"But after it was made clear that the people must be supported, MR sent a contingent to Edsa, and conducted raids on police stations in Malabon and Tondo," he said.

Ricardo Reyes, a former member of the CPP Political Bureau, gave a qualified answer.

Major force

"'Yes' [it was left behind] if we think of Edsa as the result of that phase from the snap election to the four-day revolt. But 'No,' if we think of Edsa as the culmination of the anti-dictatorship struggle. The Left led by the CPP-NPA (the united party and army at that time) was a major force galvanizing the people's struggle against the Marcos dictatorship from the very day martial law was imposed in September 1972 to its ouster in 1986," Reyes said.

He said this clarification must be made to unravel the myth, which the elite later successfully wrapped around Edsa I to justify elite dominance and downgrade the contribution of mass-based movements.

Declaring that the Left was left out at Edsa amounts to seeing what happened in a narrow ideological perspective, according to Beltran.

"It's part of the potshots thrown at the Left that was magnified by Rightist camps, which wanted to monopolize power," he said.

Beltran said the KMU was not only at Edsa but also in other parts of the country, staging a general strike in support of the claim to victory of Cory Aquino.

He said the general strike paralyzed transportation in Bicol, Cebu, Mindanao and Central Luzon. "We were in 14 of the 17 regions except Sulu, Zamboanga and some parts of Mindanao," he said.

Uprising outside Manila

Like Beltran and the others, Sison said the people's uprising outside Metro Manila contributed to the downfall of Marcos.

"Bayan had the most organized masses rising up against the Marcos fascist dictatorship and neutralizing the pro-Marcos local officials in so many provincial capitals, cities and key municipalities. Bayan Angeles City stopped on its tracks the tank convoy of General Palafox. Gen. Renato de Villa put his command and personnel in alliance with Bayan Bicol in order to serve notice to Marcos that Edsa had a deep reserve in the provinces," Sison said.

He also recognized the role other forces played in toppling the Marcos dictatorship.

"What was the most decisive force or what were the most decisive forces in the overthrow of Marcos? I would point to the broad masses of the people that showed up at Edsa and before the presidential palace. But I dare not single out any of the organized forces as the most decisive, without clear qualification. It was a convergence of various forces that overthrew the Marcos regime. Various forces were decisive in their respective ways," he said.

Decisive

The legal and underground Left were most important and decisive in contributing the most tested and most organized masses that served as hard core of the broad masses at Edsa and elsewhere, according to Sison.

"But certainly the most decisive in emasculating Marcos within the ruling system and, at the same time, keeping the ruling system intact were the US, the Catholic hierarchy, the business groups, Aquino and her followers and those high Marcos bureaucrats and military officers who turned against Marcos," he said.

At Edsa, the Left did not lead the people, a reversal of its role as a vanguard of the struggle against Marcos for the most part of his dictatorial rule, but it was a significant part of the uprising. Denying its role at Edsa is to misread that part of Philippine history.

(Rosales and "Roger" were interviewed by Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.; Padilla by Jamie Alarcon, and Beltran by Minerva Generalao and Cyril L. Bonabente. Reyes and Sison submitted written answers.)

SISON: Bayan forces accounted for a 5th of people at Edsa.

ROSALES: If we could not accept Cory, what more the AFP?

BELTRAN: Cardinal Sin's call was a trigger to go to Edsa. ALL PDI PHOTO FILES

THE PEOPLE

I wrote my last will and testament

By Ma. Gracia de Veas Riñoza-Plazo

WHEN WE HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LATE Cardinal Sin on the radio asking the faithful to go to Edsa, I personally felt that God was drafting us to fight evil.

But it caused me a heart wrenching dilemma. It was not easy for me to bring all my four children there. It could turn bloody.

So I wrote my last will and testament. I am a lawyer and I stated my wishes for my three older children in case my husband, I and my youngest son perish in the battlefield of Edsa.

My husband and I decided to bring the youngest whom we feel would be most vulnerable if left behind.

But the three others we left to our house help, Evelyn.

I prepared as many sandwiches as I could for distribution. I instructed Evelyn and my three other children—Joey, Therese and Val—to always stay close to one another, pray the rosary and leave the radio on, all the time even while they are praying.

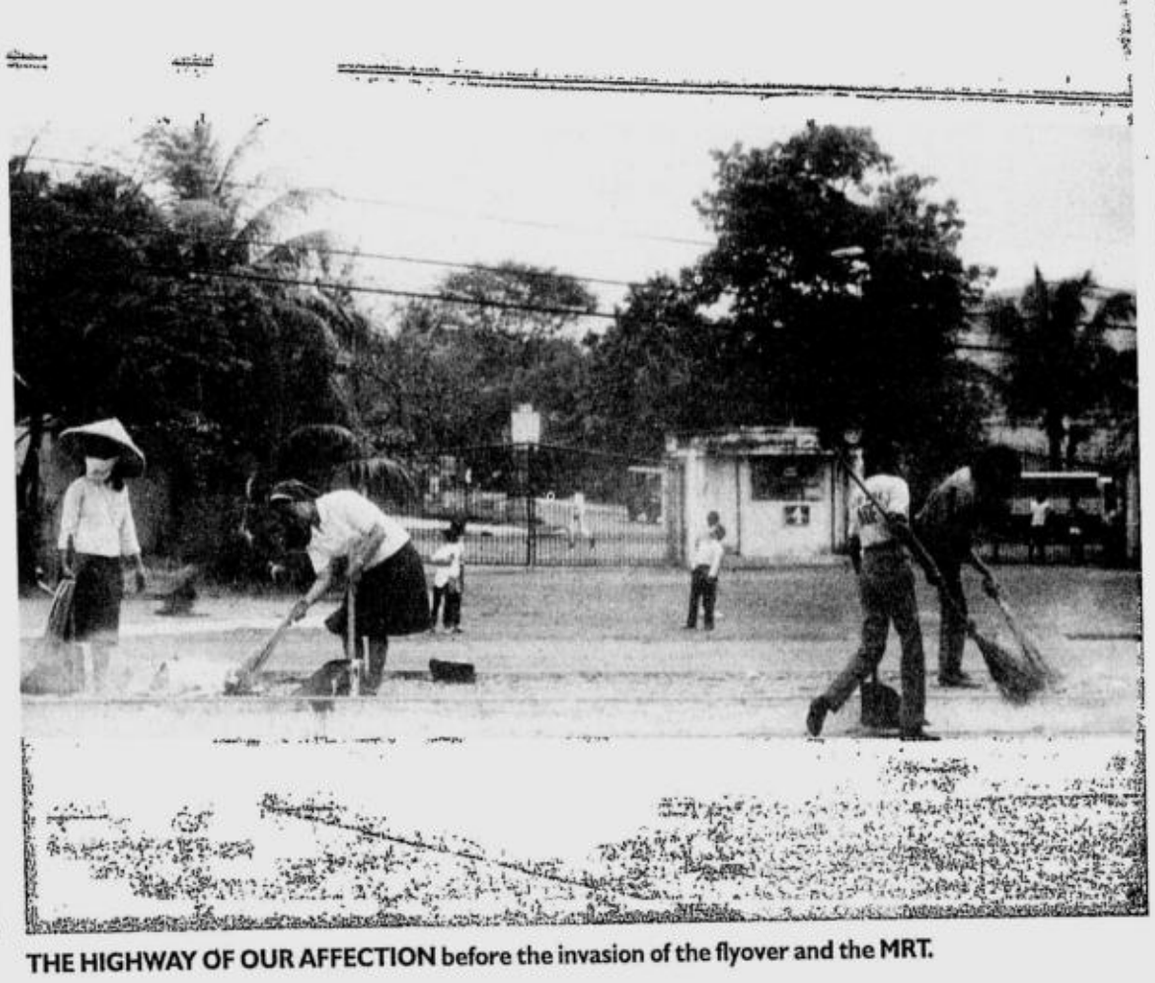
That moment of goodbye was for me a scary and solemn one.

When my husband, Marlon and I finally arrived at Edsa, my fears vanished.

There was a mood of celebration. The big throng of people were marching jubilantly from all directions.

Marlon wanted to climb a parked tank. His Dad placed him atop one. As I watched him grinning, I prayed, "Lord save our nation for our children."

Despite these intermittent surges of fear, I felt safe and calm. I felt united with the multitudes who have responded to the call of God and country.



THE HIGHWAY OF OUR AFFECTION before the invasion of the flyover and the MRT.

I saw Cory at POEA

By Jesse Baylon Jr.

WE WERE IN A RESTAURant in Manila debating whether to follow Cory's request to boycott San Miguel beer. After much discussion, because it was an issue of national importance, we decided that we loved our country more than San Miguel beer and ordered fruit juice instead.

We took a cab to go home and were told by the driver about Cardinal Sin's plea for people to go to Edsa to protect Enrile and Ramos. But, sad to say, our fears got the better of us.

On Monday, we finally decided to go to Edsa. A bus took us up to a certain point of Edsa and we had to walk to the corner of Ortigas Avenue, where we saw sandbags and barricades. A huge crowd was there in a festive mood.

Early in the afternoon, Cory's group came. It was a brief appearance only at the POEA building where she prayed the "Ama Namin"—The Lord's Prayer—with those present at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue.

In the evening, while queuing to make a telephone call at the Tropical Hut grocery, somebody shouted that tanks were coming. I stood still, frozen. I was already looking for a place to hide when—to my shame—we saw a group of women, including nuns, rushing to defend the barricades with their bodies!

Fortunately, for us men, it was a false alarm. That single experience, however, was quite a revelation. Women were far more courageous than the men!

A little story with a bang

By Manuel A. Quiambao

(The writer is assistant law dean of Jose Rizal University)

FIRST, THERE WAS A LOUD EXplosion that seemed to have come from the area of Camp Crame. This was before 6 a.m. on Feb. 24, 1986. The sparse crowd that had remained from a long night of vigil was startled, then ran toward the Greenhills Shopping Center.

There were shouts that the feared ground attack had commenced and that Marcos' soldiers were starting to bomb the place.

Every time I looked back to that day, I still wonder why no mention has been made in any of the accounts of the revolution about that explosion.

Immediately after hearing the loud bang, I instinctively groped for my son, Manny Jr. To my horror, he was not there. I felt my knees melt with fear. My son woke up early that morning and begged me to bring him to Edsa. He was 10 years old, and a proud Atenean.

I ran, scanning the crowd and shouting the name of my son. I was fearful that he would be crushed in the stampede. I was telling myself, "My God, he is just 10 years old."

I was also afraid that shooting would erupt.

After a while, the running stopped and people slowly drifted back.

But I continued to search, alternately running and walking, and all the time shouting the name of my son. He was nowhere in sight. I stopped to catch my breath. I felt some chest pains. I thought I was going to die.

At the corner of Annapolis and Edsa I saw helicopters. "This is it," said an old man. My fear trebled. I shouted again for my son.

"Papa," somebody called. It was my son with some teenagers. He was pointing to the helicopters. I hurried to get him. I lifted him for a mad dash back to Annapolis Street

But as we crossed the avenue, we were stopped on our tracks by the shouting. The helicopters landed inside the camp, instead of firing their guns. The crowd was ecstatic. *"Kakampi, kakampi natin"* people said. My son was jumping for joy. I was also jumping.

Have we learned anything?

By Jose Miguel Gomez

(The author was a high school teacher at the Ateneo at the time)

WITH MY CAR LOADED WITH provisions for people at the barricades, I drove out again to Edsa on the fourth day of the uprising. The commentator on Radyo Bandido was airing a call for people to go to the television stations to help wrest control over the broadcast facilities.

After weaving between blocked roads and barricades, I managed to park in the vicinity of the Channel 9 broadcasting tower in Quezon City. It was impossible to get close to Channel 4 where People Power was mustered to prevent the loyalist forces from retaking the network.

Loyalist soldiers held the Channel 9 building and tower; the rebels lay siege to the compound, and the crowds swirled around beyond the barricades.

After some time, an Air Force helicopter flew in from the west. It slowly circled the tower, then suddenly peeled off when one of the soldiers positioned high up in the tower let off a few rounds at the aircraft.

As the chopper approached the tower again, more small arms fire was heard from the tower, and then suddenly the helicopter let out a rapid series of hammering sounds. My blood chilled when I realized that they were shooting at the tower with an M2 Browning .50 cal. machine gun, a weapon used for shooting down jet aircraft and blasting holes through armor. Those soldiers in the tower didn't stand a chance! For the first time in my life, I watched men die at the hands of their comrades!

Soon, things quieted down again, and a cessation of hostilities was eventually agreed upon.

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RUDY ESPERAS

TOUGH CHIP: Robert Pactolerin on No. 9.

Pagunsan grabs TCC lead

Freshman pro's 71 best in blustery winds; Miñoza makes cut

By June Navarro

CANLUBANG—BLUSTERY winds and testy pin placements proved too tough a combination for the field to handle yesterday, as Juvic Pagunsan sneaked in front and Frankie Miñoza barely made the cut.

Pagunsan struggled to another 1-over-par 71, but his 142 total was enough to give the Southeast Asian Games champion a one-shot lead over fellow rookie pro Artemio Murakami and overnight leader Ramil Bisera halfway through The Country Club Invitational at the TCC course here.

Tournament favorite Miñoza and defending champion Jerome Delariarte barely made it to the money round at 151, the 36-hole cut, following rounds of 74 and 75, respectively.

"The wind was strong enough to keep you out of your usual game but the pin placements made it even more difficult," said Pagunsan, who won two SEAG golds at the 7,198-yard course last year.

"Torture," said Miñoza, an Asian Tour veteran and winner of six titles in the lucrative Japan circuit, after compiling six bogeys against two birdies for nines of 36-38.

Pagunsan gunned down four birdies and five bogeys, including three on the last eight holes, for nines of 34-37.

Murakami had nines of 36-37 to tie Bisera (36-39) for second in the P4-million tournament that offers P1.2 million to the champion.

"I shouldn't have missed those putts," said the 27-year-old Pagunsan in Filipino, referring to his misfortunes on Nos. 3, 12 and 14 which he all three-putted.

Pagunsan could have matched par but he landed his 3-iron approach from 175 yards in the water.

Just like the rest of the 36-man field that included three amateurs, pin placements bedevilled Felix Casas, who could do no better than a 75 for a 144 aggregate.

"Since this is cut-off day, we made the pin placements a bit tougher for the pros," said TCC general manager Mike Carr.

Second-round scores:

142—Juvic Pagunsan (71-71); **143**—A. Murakami (70-73), R. Bisera (68-75); **144**—C. Casas (69-75); **145**—C. La'O (72-73); **146**—M. Pucay (72-74), Robert Pactolerin (69-77); **147**—A. Tanpinco (AM) (71-76), G. Rosales (70-77), R. Sinfuego (70-77); **148**—C. Villaroman (72-76); **149**—A. Lascuna (73-76); **150**—M. Dizon (74-76), A. Que (71-79), R. Sasutil (71-79); **151**—R. Pagunsan (75-76), P. Miñoza (77-74), E. Salvador (77-74), R. Alit (77-74), F. Miñoza (77-74), D. Zarate (72-79), J. Delariarte (76-75); **153**—E. Arcillas (73-80), B. Magada (72-81); **154**—Ronald Pactolerin (77-77); **155**—D. De Villa (AM) (76-79); **157**—Ed Ababa (77-80), Juanito Pagunsan (78-79), Lora Roberto (AM) (77-80); 158-R. Marcelo (79-79); **159**—Ce Ababa (78-81), D. Cruz (76-83); **160**—R. Cabajar (77-83); **163**—Rodrigo Cuello (80-83), Rodolfo Cuello (78-85)

Alvarez completes Eagles' reunion

THE MUCH-AWAITED ATENEO REUNION AT Red Bull finally came to fruition.

Rich Alvarez, last season's rookie of the year, has rejoined key teammates from the Blue Eagles 2002 champion squad after Alaska dealt him to Red Bull in exchange for the Bulls' 2006 and 2007 first-round picks.

Overflowing with players at the small forward spot, the Aces shipped the scrappy 6-foot-4 forward to ease the pressure on Tim Cone's rotation, Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo told the INQUIRER.

"We have problems on how to divide the playing minutes on the court so what we did was let go of Alvarez and get more role players on board," said Trillo.

Earlier, the Aces also acquired Nic Belasco after trading Brandon Cablay to San Miguel in a move to strengthen the Alaska frontline.

Alvarez will again team up with former Eagles Enrico Villanueva, Larry Fonacier and Paolo Bugia, who led Ateneo to the 2002 UAAP crown after a 15-year title drought. *June Navarro*

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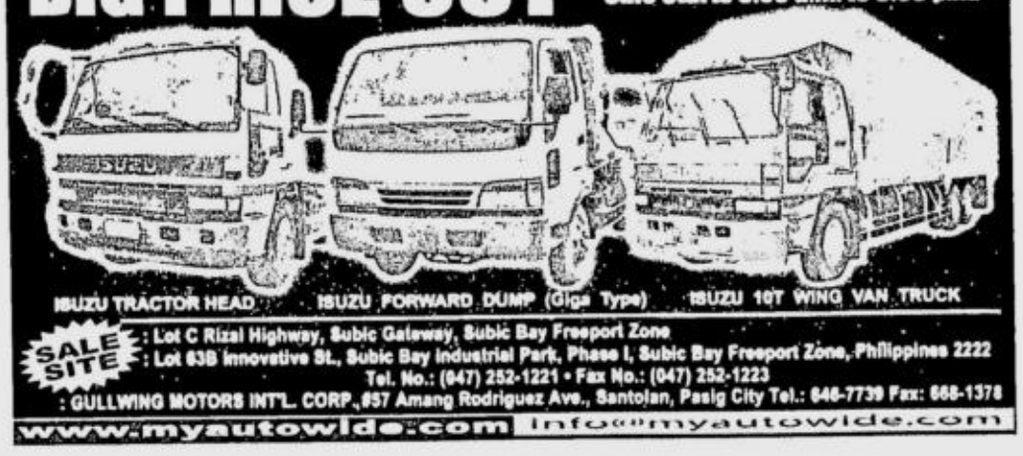

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Iloilo battles Negros; NCR-Cotabato tiff up

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

BAROTAC NUEVO—NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND TEAM Biscocho Haus-Iloilo rekindle their bitter rivalry today when they clash for a finals seat in the PFF-National Men's Open Championship here.

Defending champion National Capital Region battles newcomer Northern Cotabato, shortly after the 1:30 p.m. encounter between the regional rivals in this football-loving town.

Negros coach Freddie Lazarito minced no words that he wants his team to battle Iloilo for a place in the finals.

"We would rather face Iloilo in the semis," Lazarito said, stressing that his team has yet to play true to form despite posting a sweep of its group matches. "It has a weaker lineup than NCR."

Iloilo, however, would be tougher than expected, coach Lurex Araneta told the INQUIRER.

For one, the Ilonggos are expected to come out with greater firepower after losing to NCR, 0-1, with Ian Araneta, a product of the grassroots program of this town, coming up with the game-winner in the 70th minute.

"The loss toughened the team," the Iloilo coach said, adding that his side is getting used to rising above adversities, citing their first game, where seven key players bucked dehydration to combine for a 5-0 win over Iligan.

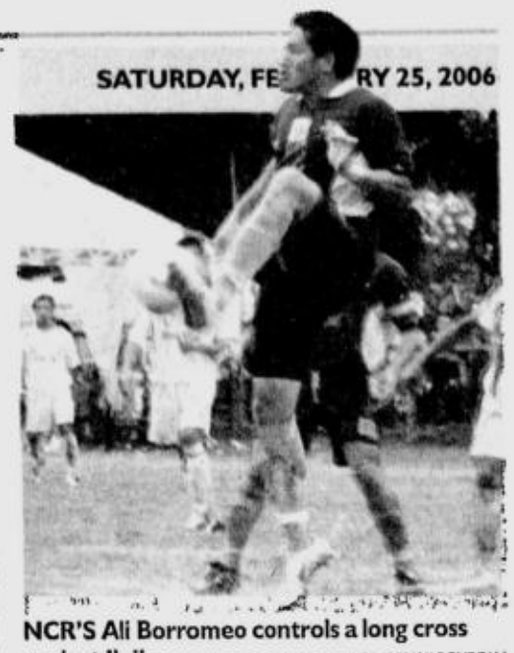
One thing going for the Ilonggos is the overwhelming crowd support here that also carried them to a come-from-behind 5-2 win over Baguio Wednesday.

The game also puts brothers Ziggy and Jezurel Tonog on opposite sides.

Ziggy, the younger of the two brothers, had been anchoring his team's defense in the eliminations, while Jezurel plays midfield.

Negros is actually the last team to have won the national title, before NCR claimed back-to-back crowns in Manila and Cagayan de Oro City, respectively.

Regarded as the tournament's surprise package, Northern Cotabato posted two wins in the eliminations, before losing the Group A plum to Negros, while NCR rampaged to an impressive 4-1 win over Baguio and whitewashed Iligan, 10-0.



NCR'S Ali Borromeo controls a long cross against Iloilo. ARNOLD ALMACEN/ PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

13-pt swing catapults S'woods back in front

By Musong R. Castillo

DAVAO CITY—MANILA SOUTHWOODS THRIVED IN CONDITIONS it knows best to regain the lead from Canlubang and give itself a shot at repeating as champion for the first time in the Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championships here.

Tonlits Asistio opened with a bogey but gunned down eight birdies the rest of way for a four-under 68 worth 40 points at Palos Verdes. That boosted Southwoods to a 147 total and a three-round 415 aggregate—two points up on overnight leader Canlubang.

Toru Nakajima signed for a 71 worth 37 points and Miko Alejandro and Matsumura Michio accounted for 35 each as Southwoods erased an 11-point deficit to take the driver's seat heading into the final round today at Apo Golf and Country Club.

Canlubang drew 38 points from former RP Amateur titlist Jun Bernis and a 36 from JR Tanpinco, but rookie Joseph Labajo and veteran Abe Rosal could do no better than a 30 each as the Sugar Barons slipped to 134 for the day and a 413 total. Ronnie Torrecampo failed to count for the second straight day with a 24.

"I still think everything is set according to plan," Southwoods skipper Thirdy Escano said. "Hopefully, we will do well (today) in Apo. *We already had our bad day there.*"

Southwoods lost a 10-point lead at the 7,079-yard Apo in the second round Wednesday to trail Canlubang by 11 at the start of yesterday's round at Palos Verdes.

Canlubang, however, enjoys a clear edge in local knowledge—the core of its final-day lineup started their careers at the tough Apo course.

"We finished badly, but we're still very much in it," said skipper Luigi Yulo, whose Sugar Barons dropped seven points in the last two holes.

Del Monte, the 2004 winner at its home course in Bukidnon, posted a second straight 129 for 394 and all but bowed out of the title chase.

Buboy Jaraulla led Del Monte with 35 points to go with the 32s of Jolan Miñoza and Jett Plete, who carded a flawless 40 Wednesday, and the 30 of skipper Yoyong Velez.

TONLITS Asistio blasts out of the bunker of No. 6. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Southwoods will play RP pool members Erwin Vinluan, Michael Bibat, Jong Laput and Gene Bondoc together with Hanson So Jr. today.

This was the same squad that took a terrible beating on Thursday from Canlubang rookies Jonel Ababa and Mark Fernando and Jay Bayron and Boyet Saragoza. Rosal takes over from Mario Labajo.

Cebu Country Club wrested the Founders division lead from Wack Wack after a solid 126 built around the 35 of veteran Ramontito Garcia at Apo Golf.

Mark Dy chipped in with 32, Jovy Neri accounted for 31 and Jojo Teongco had 28 for Cebu, which had a 348 total, five up on Wack Wack, which carded a measly 107.

Palos Verdes stayed on top of the Sportswriters division despite a 97, its 10-point lead chopped down to three by Orchard, which shot 105 for a 304 total.

Zamboanga zoomed to the top of the Friendship division, shooting a day-best 96, also at Palos Verdes, for a 268 aggregate and a nine-point edge over Camp Evangelista (94). Two-day leader Stanford struggled with a 76 and dropped to fourth, two points behind third placed Maharlika's 253.

Battle of champs for students crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

REIGNING UAAP CHAMPION FAR EASTERN University and NCAA titlist Letran downed their respective foes yesterday and forged a title showdown for the seniors crown of the National Students Basketball Championships at the Rizal Coliseum.

FEU unleashed its might against Philippine Christian U, 63-53, while Letran rallied from a sluggish first half to beat University of Visayas, 71-66. The victors collide today at 3 p.m.

King Tamaraw Arwind Santos finally showed up but could only score six points in a supporting role to Jonas Villanueva who topscored with 20 points. Jeffrei Chan added 12.

Earlier, John Paul Alcaraz and Aaron Aban led the Knights' second-half attack to thwart the Lancers, the only non-Luzon team to land in the Final Four.

The duel between the two champions should draw the attention of basketball fans, according to Moying Martelino, president of the organizing Philippine Basketball Federation.

In high school play, NCAA champion San Sebastian blasted UAAP titlist La Salle-Zobel, 85-72, and NCAA runner-up San Beda routed PCU, 67-51, to arrange a title clash at 1:30 p.m.

San Sebastian while San Beda disposed of Philippine Christian University, 67-51.

The scores:

LETRAN 71—Alcaraz 21, Aban 18, Aldave 9, Bautista 7, Rodriguez 7, Andaya 6, Mondragon 2, Jazul 1, Pinera 0.

UV 66—Rodriguez 16, Ababon 13, Calo 10, Nepana 10, Berame 9, Santos 6, Lanete 2, Arda 0, Akad 0, Lasala 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 29-37, 54-52, 71-66

'The show will go on'

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

I CAN IMAGINE WHAT SOLAR COO Peter Chanliong must have thought of me when I texted him yesterday morning to follow up on the wrestling tickets requested by a media bigwig.

In retrospect, I'm surprised he even called immediately in response to the text message. Under the prevailing situation, it sounded so insignificant, although I wasn't aware of the prevailing situation at the time.

The signal was not too good, so I couldn't make out exactly what Peter was saying. Did I hear the words 'state of emergency'? I wasn't too sure.

Anyway, Peter promised to call later. He had just returned from a trip to the United States where he watched the Brian Viloria-Jose Antonio Aguirre fight in Las Vegas and the NBA All-Stars in Houston, Texas, and I knew he had his hands full, considering that the much-awaited WWE RAW LIVE was scheduled Feb. 24 and 25.

I wasn't surprised then that he failed to get in touch to advise me re the tickets, which is why I decided to text him.

* * *

Just a few minutes after my brief talk with Peter on the cellphone, I turned on the television set. Although used to this kind of scenario, I did not realize the gravity of the situation. After all, the President had declared a national state of emergency.

I knew that classes had been suspended because of a projected coup d'etat, but that happens all the time. What else is new?

But I didn't know about the attempted coup at dawn which was aborted by government forces. Or the humongous throng of impassioned rallyists that had gathered at Edsa.

Until I switched on the boob tube.

Peter must think I was absolutely clueless, or else my values were misplaced. Talking about wrestling tickets when thousands could be hurt or die in a riot or another stampede.

The thought suddenly crossed my mind: Peter and Solar Entertainment must be in a major quandary right at that moment. I remember several years ago when an NBA selection flew to Manila for an exhibition game and was confronted with a similar precarious situation.

The NBA cagers got so scared they decided to fly back home.

Needless to say, the game (games?) was canceled. Consequently, the promoter lost a lot of money.

The coup never materialized.

* * *

At the time Peter called, I knew he was at the Crowne Plaza Hotel where the wrestlers were billeted. Had they threatened to pull out of their commitment like the NBA cagers did years ago? Was Peter trying to convince them to stand by their commitment?

I shuddered at the consequences should the show be canceled "due to unforeseen circumstances." Aside from thousands of Pinoy wrestling fans being disappointed, a cancelation would cost Solar millions of dollars since they will have to reimburse payment for the tickets which were sold out from floor to ceiling of the Big Dome.

* * *

All fears were allayed when Peter sent a text message early yesterday afternoon.

"The show will go on," he declared. I wondered if that decision was arrived at after a long, strained, heated exchange of words and a short impasse.

Peter showed no signs when I talked to him later. The wrestlers were never scared like the NBA cagers, he swore.

"Nevertheless we will provide them with maximum security and protection," he said.

The tickets—now rare as diamonds because they sold like hotcakes—were delivered at my doorstep two hours later. These were for the Feb. 25 show, of course.

SPORTSWATCH

CSI criterium hits road in Marikina

CLOSE TO 200 RIDERS BATTLE FOR HONORS AND RANKING POINTS IN THE second leg of the Philamlife Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) Criterium Race today at the Marikina Heights Liwasan Kalayaan. Action is expected to heat up in the men's elite and under-23 class featuring members of the Pagcor-Casino team that saw action in the recent Langkawi Tour. Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando and Vice Mayor Marion Andres will fire off the event presented by Philpost at 8 a.m. Twelve teams are entered in each class of the event organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. The 10-stage circuit is backed by Pagcor, PCSO, Aktivade Thirst Quencher, Monterey, Nestlé, Air21, Philamlife, PhilCycling and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Perfect 7-of-7 for Go's Firefly I 3RM

WILLIAM GO'S FIREFLY 13RM ENTRY SWEPT ALL ITS SEVEN MATCHES TO rule the 5th NCA 7-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit recently. Sharing second place with 5 points each were Firefly 14 of Frankie Uy, Red Creek II of Iggy Arroyo and Jeslie Palmares, and Red Creek III, Iggy Arroyo's joint entry with Boy de Roca. Pooling 4 points each were Magic Wing Sundance of Ronnie Puno, Jimafer Mapalad JC of Jet Fernando, Lucky Rin Firefly Binangonan of Ric de Guzman, Red Creek I of Iggy Arroyo and Jeslie Palmares, Against All Odds of Jerry Ramos, Jade Resort of Arman Santos, BR Fatman S Bacolor of Tony Tan, and Firefly RM 100.

Las Piñas derby finals kick off today

UPCOMING COCKERS AND BREEDERS TAKE CENTER STAGE TODAY IN THE Final round of the "Pamigay Premyo" 3-cock derby starting at 6 p.m. today at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Out of 62 entries, 48 qualified for today's finals hosted by former mayor Nene Aguilar. Up next at the venue is the Mojaco 4-Cock Derby on March 4. For inquiries, call 873-1040 or 874-3910.

60 matches spice up Makati cockfest

AT LEAST 60 MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN THE CONCRETE BREAKER 5-COCK derby, a duel pitting popular Metro Manila cockers and sponsored by B-Meg Derby Ace, tonight at the Makati Coliseum. A cash pot of P500,000 will be at stake in this one-day derby hosted by Makati sportsman Emil Chua. Entry fee is P22,000. Chua said members of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines are also seeing action today. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

PCAP screening set for stag series

THE MAKATI COLISEUM-BASED PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPpines will screen cockerels from March 1 to 31, in preparation for the PCAP stag derby series in September. Breeders who prefer farm-to-farm screening and wingbanding may call the WTJ office at 0915-4496889 or 896-3545 for appointment. Meanwhile, the P500,000 Concrete Breaker 5-cock derby starts at 5 p.m. tomorrow.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Sea of Galilee (2), Full of Success (5), Reign of Roses (6), Fair Urduja (3)
Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Lakambini (2), Hurry Putter (1), Astronaut (4), Empire Trish (8)
Race 3—(Ort/Tri)—Ravishing Roffy/Imperator (2), C'est Moi (1), Modern Classic (6)
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Playmaker (6), Hard to Find (11), High Spirit (2), Golden Majestic (1), Suplada (3)
Race 5—(Tri)—Danseuse (4), Earl Gray (1), Vickyval (2)
Race 6—(Ort/Tri)—Thor Simba (7), Sharapova (4), Ho Ho Ho (6), Sheza Winner/Latin Success (8)
Race 7—(Tri)—Juggernaut (5), Kaphia (6), Mikas Dream (1)
Race 8—(Ort/Tri)—Silver Cho Cho (11), Ichiro (6), Jokes Only (3), Streisand (4)
Race 9—(Penta/Tri)—Rockwell (8), Reporter (9), Mr. Lucas (2), Diabolo Don (13)
Race 10—(Tri)—Jagger (5), Santiago (1), Pamingaminsan (4)
Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Kaligatan (9), Five O'Clock (10), Worth Ur While (8), Sincerity (7), Princess Adama (5)
Race 12—(Ort/Tri)—Magic Evan Ko (9), Shy Girl (4), Tony's Secret (6), Cunning Paige (1)
Race 13—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Lady Be Gold/Play It Again (11), Mayhw (5), Leading Man (7), El Cid (4), Magic Bullet/Kalashnikov (10), Samahan (12)

LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

CONTRACT FOR THE 5-YEAR MAINTENANCE OF MRT LINE 2 SYSTEM

Bid documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, during regular office hours from **March 9-10, 2006** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

Site Inspection will be held on **March 14, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City.

For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **March 16, 2006** at 10:00 a.m., at the Conference Room, Maintenance Building, LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City. On or before the above-mentioned pre-bid conference, the bidders must notify LRTA in writing of their intent to bid. Failure to notify LRTA of such intent shall mean outright disqualification from the bidding process.

The approved budget for this Contract is **Php 1,059,241,862.82** chargeable against LRTA Corporate Opening Budget.

Due to the nature of the requirements of the Contract, a two-stage bidding procedure shall be employed pursuant to Section 30 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act. Submission of Envelope 1; Bids stage 1 shall be on **18 April 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at Conference Room, Maintenance Building, LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City and Envelopes 1 and 2; Bid stage 2 on **04 May 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at Conference Room, Maintenance Building, LRTA Line 2 Depot, Santolan, Pasig City, both addressed to:

The Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee (SBAC)
Light Rail Transit Authority
LRTA Compound, G/F Admin. Bldg.
Aurora Blvd., Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Telefax No.: (0632) 551-5946

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the LRTA.

The Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb 25, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN RE. APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ELECTRIC POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (EPPA) BETWEEN BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BENECO) AND MIRANT (PHILIPPINES) ENERGY CORPORATION, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY.

ERC CASE NO. 2005-051 RC

BENGUET, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BENECO), Applicant.

x - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) on November 29, 2005 of an application for approval of the electric power purchase agreement (EPPA) between itself and Mirant (Philippines) Energy Corporation (Mirant), with prayer for provisional authority.

Said EPPA has a cooperation period of twenty (20) years on a take-or-pay basis with an energy off-take of 81,468,000 kWh per Billing Year or 81,691,200 kWh during leap years except in the first and last Billing Year of the Cooperation Period. In these years the quantity of electric energy to be delivered shall be determined following the definition of "Billing Year" in Article I of the said Agreement, provided that the SELLER and BUYER may agree to increase the above quantities upon mutual consent.

Likewise, under Schedule 7 of the said EPPA, during the Capital Recovery Period of the first (5) years of the cooperation period, the electricity fee to be paid by BENECO to MIRANT for each billing month shall in all cases be equal to and never greater than the rates chargeable by National Power Corporation (NPC), as if the latter is the sole supplier of electricity of BENECO.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on March 17, 2006 (Friday) at two-thirty in the afternoon (2:30 P.M.) at DPS Compound, Baguio City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID, JESUS N. ALCORDO RAUF A. TAN and ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 16th day of February, 2006 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA
Executive Director III

(PDI - February 25 2006)

Pistons, Mavs fan home win streaks

SACRAMENTO's Brian Miller hooks one over Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom. AP

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—Rasheed Wallace had 28 points and nine rebounds to guide Detroit to an 88-83 win over the Indiana Pacers on Thursday, giving the Pistons their 11th consecutive home win.

Wallace also recorded his 1,000th career block, becoming just the 68th player in league history to hit that milestone.

Chauncey Billups added 14 points and had nine assists for the Pistons, who improved to an NBA best 44-9 after losing four of their previous 10.

"We won the game, but there are things we need to work on," Detroit coach Flip Saunders told reporters.

"We need to play better for longer stretches than we did tonight if we expect to keep winning games."

The Pistons appeared sluggish for most of the night, but Wallace came alive early in the fourth quarter, hitting four straight—including three 3-pointers—to thwart the Pacers.

Ben Wallace had 13 points and eight rebounds for Detroit while the Pistons' tenacious defense wore down the Pacers in the second half.

Detroit's other starter, Tayshaun Prince, contributed eight points as the Pistons started the same five players for the 53rd game in a row.

"When you turn it over 22 times for 30 points, you aren't going to beat a top team," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle told reporters.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 31 points as the Mavericks beat the Memphis Grizzlies, 97-87.

Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 11 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter and added a season-high 10 assists to lead the Los Angeles Lakers over Sacramento, 106-85, for their third win in four games. *Reuters*

NBA on Solar: 9 a.m.—San Antonio vs. Memphis (replay at 8 p.m.)

Woods takes harder route to next round

AFP **WOODS: Struggling this time** AFP

CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA—TIGER WOODS earned a hard-fought victory over Australian Robert Allenby on Thursday to advance to the final 16 in the WGC Accenture Match Play Championship.

On a day when all of the remaining big guns survived, top-seeded Woods sank a seven-foot birdie at the final hole to beat Allenby 1-up, advancing along with Fiji's Vijay Singh, South African Retief Goosen and fellow American Phil Mickelson.

Woods, who posted a record 9 and 8 victory over the hapless Stephen Ames in the first round, had to work a lot harder against Allenby.

The world No. 1 was at a disadvantage early after opening with two bogeys to go 2-down.

"Robert won the first two holes with pars, and that's the worst thing you can do in match play," Woods said. "He played well all day, didn't make a bogey."

But Allenby didn't make any birdies either, until the 11th hole, and by then he was 1-down. That's where the match stayed until Allenby made it all square with a birdie at the par-three 16th.

It came down to the par-five 18th, where both players hit mammoth drives that left them 247 yards to the hole, close enough to have a crack at the green with their second shots.

With the pin on the right side of the green, left was the only place to miss, and Woods did that, finding a greenside bunker that left him with a relatively easy third shot.

Allenby, however, sprayed his second shot to the right and had to settle for par, leaving Woods with a difficult putt for victory, which he drained.

Singh also lost the first two holes in his match before recovering to beat Miguel Angel Jimenez, 2 and 1.

Fourth seed Goosen wasn't at his best, but he had enough game to beat Ben Crane, 2 and 1. Not even a hole-in-one at the 16th could save Crane, who promptly surrendered with a bogey at 17.

Mickelson had an entertaining duel with fellow fan favorite John Daly, breaking clear by winning the 11th hole with an eagle and the 13th and 14th with birdies to win 2 and 1.

Puerto Princesa hosts Milo run 5th leg Sunday

THE NATIONAL MILO MARATHON VISITS what perhaps is the cleanest, greenest and most peaceful city in the country for the first time to stage the fifth qualifying race of its 30th season on Sunday.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn has been invited to fire the starting gun to send off more than 4,000 runners in the 21K, 5K and 3K races.

"We welcome officials and guests of the 30th National Milo Marathon to our city," said Hagedorn.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races in the 21K event will advance to the national finals slated Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

The top 10 finishers in all three events of the country's longest-running marathon series held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific and Powerbar will receive trophies and cash prizes.

The race is hosted by the city government of Puerto Princesa and is organized by the Palawan Chamber of Commerce.

Race organizer Rudy Biscocho said all participants must be at the starting area at 5 a.m.

Undefeated filly hopes to continue juggernaut

UNDEFEATED FILLY JUGGERNAUT SETS OUT TO mark her 3-year-old debut in grand fashion as she parades as overwhelming favorite to win the P1-million PCSO Freedom Cup Race today at the Santa Ana Park. Last year's undisputed champion 2-year-old, unblemished in five official starts, will commence her sophomore season in the PCSO-sponsored event exclusive for graduates of the PCSO Maiden Special Races held in 2005. Already the winner of three major stakes races, the celebrated progeny of current hot sire Mr. Sutter (US) out of Plate Lady bred by businessman-sportsman Aristeo Puyat will be eyeing the P600,000.00 top purse guaranteed to the winner of the event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution. The PCSO Freedom Cup Stakes will be followed tomorrow by the staging of the 1st leg of Philarcom "Road to Triple Crown" stakes Race at the Santa Ana Park.

Arakawa's upset lifts Japan

TURIN, ITALY—WITH RIVALS LITERALLY falling by the wayside, Shizuka Arakawa calmly and gracefully saved Japan from its worst Winter Games in 30 years with an upset triumph in women's figure skating.

While highly favored Sasha Cohen and world champion Irina Slutskaya had tumbles, Arakawa performed an elegant and acrobatic routine to Puccini's "Violin Fantasy of Turandot."

Arawaka won Japan's first Olympic figure skating title and its first—after a long and tension-filled wait—medal of any kind at these Games.

Cohen stumbled twice, ending the United States' chances of a third consecutive women's Olympic title. *AP*

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Global distinction and nostalgic appeal set Marco Polo Plaza apart

FOR 30 YEARS THE MARCO POLO HOTEL Group (MPHG) proved a formidable name in Asia as it successfully blends the region's innate hospitality with Western innovation in serving its wide ranging hotel clientele from different parts of the world.

This summer, the country's avid holiday-makers and business travelers will be in for a one-of-kind travel experience bearing the distinct Marco Polo touch as owner Asia Pacific Top Management International Resources Corporation (APTMIRC) readies to open the luxurious doors of Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, the first world-class urban resort hotel in the Queen City.

Nestling in Nivel Hills, overlooking the breathtaking Cebu City skyline, Marco Polo Plaza Cebu is deemed to become a key stopover with its first-rate amenities and impeccable service.

In an interview with general manager Hans Hauri, he expressed confidence Marco Polo Plaza will enjoy good patronage not only because of its unique offerings but also for its nostalgic charm.

"Well, the hotel seemed to exude a certain nostalgic appeal particularly to patrons of the former Cebu Plaza Hotel. Now as Marco Polo Plaza, we expect these guests to come and share the new experience with us," shares Hauri.

Distinct Marco Polo touch

Vibrant, contemporary, elegant yet comfortable are just some of the fine features of the newly-refurbished Marco Polo Plaza Cebu.

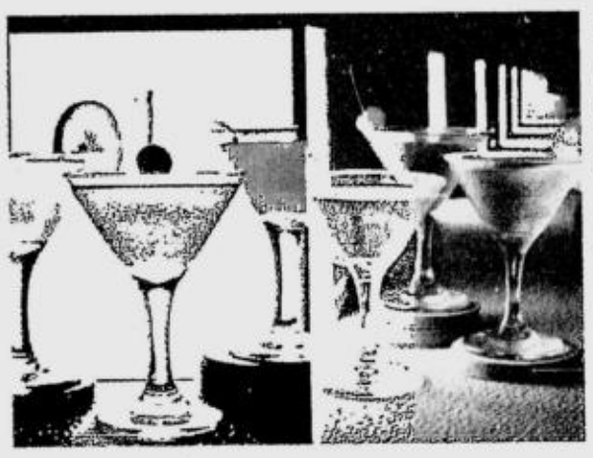
Boasting of 329 well-appointed guest rooms and suites, a Show Kitchen, handmade brick-oven wood fired at the Pool bar, Specialty coffees and Tapas at the Coffeshop and a stunning Swarovski-accented chandelier at its opulent lobby, Hauri believes Marco Polo Plaza's edge is something more than meets the eye.

"We want our guests to remember the friendliness and effectiveness while staying in our hotel. We want them to know customer service here is without delays, that we are taking action on their every need or concern. At the same time, we offer a careful balance between meeting the needs of our high and low end market."

Marco Polo Plaza Cebu lies on the sprawling 7.5 hectares of lush greenery complemented by facilities like a tennis court, a mango-shaped pool as well as a jogging trail. It serves as a choice meetings and events venue with 2445 square meters of flexible meeting space including 12 function rooms and a Grand Ballroom that can accommodate up to 500 sit-down banquet guests.

Extending warmth of welcome accorded to its famous namesake, explorer Marco Polo, on his travel to the East, guests can expect a wonderful stay at Marco Polo Plaza Cebu.

For inquiries on Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, please call 253-1111, TOLL-FREE 888 8168, email at mmplaza@marcopolohotels.com or log on to www.marcopolohotels.com.



PAYDAY MUSIC MADNESS AT THE BELLEVUE

Get a well-deserved break and visit The Bellevue's 20/20 bar and entertainment center every 15th and 31st of the month and listen to the best bands and artists in town. The best deals are at 20/20. Drink all you can for all local beers and selected cocktails for only P270++ from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays. For inquiries, call The Bellevue at 771-8181.

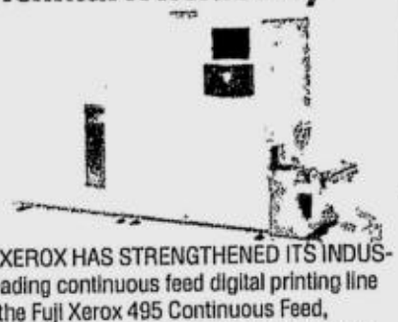
People, Events & Products

ProductFILES

Green tea pleasure

GREEN TEA, A CHINESE concoction long been known for its health benefits, is sweeping health buffs off their feet. But it's no longer just served in a hot teapot on a drizzling afternoon. With Nestle's 0% Fat No Sugar Added Green Tea comes in the form of a delicious, frozen dessert that's ultra-light and fat-free, tastes like ice cream, defying misconceptions that anything this good can't possibly be healthy. This creamy frozen treat has no sugar added, allowing those on a diet to indulge in healthy abandon, without having to worry on calories. And with the addition of an all-natural Green Tea, rich in anti-oxidants that significantly lower cholesterol and risks of cancer, Nestle's crave-worthy dessert is temptation at its best! It also comes in Mango and Café Vanilla flavors and is exclusively available in Mercury self-service stores nationwide.

Benchmark flexibility



FUJI XEROX HAS STRENGTHENED ITS INDUSTRY-leading continuous feed digital printing line with the Fuji Xerox 495 Continuous Feed, equipped with new Flash fusing technology inside Single-sized Duplex printer. It has a 500 page-per-minute print speed Duplex letter. It is also equipped with Flash fusing technology that enables you to offer a variety of stock application and advanced level of print quality at this speed. Fuji Xerox 495 Continuous Feed is the first product in terms of integration between Flash fusing and Xerox controller technology throughout Asian Pacific countries. The FX 495CF employ the Xerox-exclusive Intelligent Print Line Manager control software and Print Line Bus for benchmark flexibility in managing print engines and feeding and finishing devices. For more information on Fuji Xerox 495 Continuous Feed Duplex Printer systems, visit www.fujixerox.com or call your local sales office.

BITS Clips

3rd Bro. Benedict Golf Cup

IN AN EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER LASALLIANS from all persuasions and from the many La Salle-run campuses all over the country, the Silver Jubilarian Class of 1981 is hosting the 3rd Bro. Benedict Golf Cup at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club at Sta. Rosa, Laguna come Feb. 27. Forming teams by batch, college or campus is encouraged. The tournament commences with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. Truly, every green blooded Lasallian should register and take part in this year's Br. Benedict Golf Cup. To register, please call 523-6158 or visit www.dlsaa.com. Join now and get a chance to win a Toyota Altis or Innova. The 3rd Bro. Benedict Golf Cup is part of several activities lined up in preparation for grand alumni homecoming entitled One La Salle: Ang Sarap Maging Berde, on March 4, at the De La Salle University Campus at Taft Avenue, Manila.

GASC open for reservation for school year 2006-2007

GOLDEN ANGELS SUPERLEARNING CENTER , A preschool that caters to children ages 8 months to 6 years old, is now open for reservation for SY 2006-2007. Annelle Monroy, directress, takes pride in their graduates landing in the top 5 of the reputable "big" schools of their choice. Latest learning techniques and gadgets have been brought in by Monroy, in her recent trip abroad, to ensure that students not only superlearn by learn at laser speed. The school is so highly individualized with 5 students to every one teacher that is best to reserve early as there are limited slots per class and also to avoid tuition increase. For more information, you can call or visit Golden Angels Superlearning Center at 388 Smuth St. corner M. Marcos St., San Juan (tel. nos. 724-6042, 718-2987) or at the G/F, Alpha Salcedo Condominium, De La Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati (tel. no. 867-3609, cell no. 0915-4430852.

2006 Mr and Ms Dragonboat

THE PHILIPPINE Dragon Boat Federation (PDBF) held the first canvassing of ballot tickets for the search for 2006 Mr and Ms Dragonboat last Jan. 22 during the 3rd leg of Jam 88.3 Dragon Boat Regatta, Races at Manila Bay, Baywalk. From 17 candidates, Clarice Calolot of the DLSU Dragonboat Team and Arvin Gilmore of the Manila Blazing Paddles led the first canvassing. Raffle prizes were also given away during the event and won by Ms B. Lopez (first prize), roundtrip ticket to any Philippine destination sponsored by Fiesta Tours and Rey Tolentino (second prize), P4,000 gift certificate worth of sports apparel courtesy of Extreme Concepts. The next ballot canvassing is scheduled in March 2006. For inquiries, e-mail phildragonboat@yahoo.com.

Sunnex holds grand sale

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR FINE KITCHEN TOOLS OR gadgets that is right within your budget? Sunnex, a leading kitchenware brand in the market, celebrates Chinese New Year by offering big discounts on its valued line of kitchen tools and cookware as well as choice kettle, baking pans, wok, teaware and steamer set. Shoppers get not only value-for-money items but also, free gifts like pot holders with apron, hot and cold beverage container, among others. So, invigorate your kitchen with great deals from Sunnex. Visit any leading department store nationwide. Offer is good until Feb. 28, only. Sunnex, distributed by Metro Kitchenware Inc is known for its fine selection of stainless steel cookware, cutlery, teaware and catering items that are durable, dependable and stylish.

SC JOHNSON HONORED WITH PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

SC Johnson & Son Inc, was awarded the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership from US Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez at a White House ceremony. The honor is the only Presidential Award to recognize companies for outstanding achievements in employee and community relations. SC Johnson is being recognized for the accomplishments of its Greenlist Program. In 2001, SC Johnson devised the environmental classification system Greenlist to transform the way the company measures, tracks and continues to advance its products to further the company's longstanding commitment to environmentally responsible products. Through Greenlist, SC Johnson continues to lead the way with responsible raw material choices. Photo shows

SC Johnson chair and CEO Fisk Johnson (right) accepting the Ron Brown Award for Corporate Leadership on behalf of SC Johnson.

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SATURDAY Special

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NOW SHOWING

Lavish theatricality in Marshall's romantic drama

ZHANG. Luminous, strong, sympathetic.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Memoirs of a Geisha"
D: Rob Marshall
S: Ziyi Zhang, Gong Li, Michelle Yeoh

ROB MARSHALL'S SUMPTUOUS CINEMATIC adaptation, the director's worthy follow-up to the 2002 Oscar best picture, "Chicago," is a lush, meditative depiction of Arthur Golden's bestselling 1997 novel, "Memoirs of a Geisha," about the oft-repeated tale of a poor girl who meets the unattainable man of her dreams.

The film retraces the life of Nitta Sayuri *aka* Chiyo (Ziyi Zhang) who, with her sister, is sold by her poor fisherman-father to an *okiya* (*geisha* house) in the late 1920s.

Then, Mameha (Michelle Yeoh), a legendary *geisha*, takes the awkward 15-year-old Chiyo under her wing to teach her singing, dancing, calligraphy, flower-arranging, playing the three-stringed *shamisen* and other ways to entertain distinguished Japanese gentlemen.

Charmed life? Not really, because there's something *geishas* are forbidden to do: Fall in love. When Hatsumomo (Gong Li), the premier *geisha* of the '30s, starts to feel threatened by Sayuri's burgeoning beauty, grace and popularity, she does everything to destroy her competitor. This is "Bituing Walang Ningning" in *kimono*! But, will Sayuri's story have a happy ending?

Marshall's lavish theatricality and visual savvy capture the emotional depth and historical scope of the novel's detail-heavy narrative in stunning strokes.

But, the director's vision would not have been realized without the movie's principal actors, who fit their roles to a T. Their respective motivations are expertly drawn and intricately woven together: Zhang is luminous and strong but sympathetic, Li conveys bitter angst and ambition, Yeoh projects strength and wisdom, Watanabe (as the Chairman, Sayuri's secret love) is dashing and dignified.

However, a flaw gnaws at the movie's technical strength and structural essence. While the individual motivations of the characters are empathetic, understandable and logical, the *raison d'être* of the *geisha* mystique

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Stephen Gaghan is in top form, mixing potent writing with images that tear at the heart...
'SYRIANA' is a tough nut that demands attention...
It's the kind of give 'em-hell filmmaking that Hollywood left for dead, the kind that matters."
Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
GEORGE CLOONEY MATT DAMON JEFFREY WRIGHT
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08:25 LFS / 09 00 LMF / 10.40 END
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MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
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09 30 LFS / 10 00 LMF / 12 20 END

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06:00 / 07:45 / 09 05 LFS / 09 30 LMF / 11:25 END
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11:00FS / 11:30 MF / 01:45 / 04.20 / 07:00
09:20 LFS / 09 00 LMF / 11:05 END
AEON FLUX
10:25FS / 10.30 MF / 12.20 / 02.10 / 04.40 / 8:50
09 40 / 09:15 LFS / 09 30 LMF / 11:05 END
MANILA
AEON FLUX
11:00 FS / 12 45 MF / 02 30 / 04 15 / 06 00
07 45 / 09:15 LFS / 09 30 LMF / 11 00 END

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2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
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4 RESERVED
5 FIREWALL
6 SYRIANA
7 AEON FLUX
8 PINK PANTHER
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
12 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 SYRIANA
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 PINK PANTHER
7 AEON FLUX
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 FIREWALL
10 MGA BATANG BANGKETA

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

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1 PINK PANTHER
2 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
3 NEW WORLD
4 AEON FLUX
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
10 FIREWALL
11 SAW 2
12 SYRIANA

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1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 MY FUNNY VALENTINE
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 AEON FLUX
6 SYRIANA
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 PINK PANTHER
10 RESERVED

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1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

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1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 AEON FLUX
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
7 SYRIANA
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY MANILA
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 SAW 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
6 AEON FLUX
7 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
8 NEW WORLD
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 FIREWALL
12 SYRIANA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4 SYRIANA
5 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
6 CLOSE TO YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 PINK PANTHER
5 NEW WORLD
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5 AEON FLUX
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY BASMARINAS
1 NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 THE MAID
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 GOAL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 BLOODRAYNE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 THE MAID
4 WALK THE LINE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER
3 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
4 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY MARILAO
1 FIREWALL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FIREWALL
2 NEW WORLD
3 GOAL
4 CLOSE TO YOU

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 RUMOR HAS IT
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 AEON FLUX
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 RESERVED
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY ILOILO
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 RESERVED
7 BLOODRAYNE
8 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 PINK PANTHER
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 MUNICH
6 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

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CLOONEY. Plays a CIA operative in Stephen Gaghan's "Syriana."

Lavish...

From page A2-1

remains sketchy, detached, even elusive, and is oftentimes overwhelmed by its romanticized rendering. This prevents the production from achieving real illumination and catharsis.

Flaw notwithstanding, it's not hard to fall in love with the story of Sayuri—how she finds love and, despite restrictions, pursues it. She is told: "We have no choice. We don't become *geisha* to pursue our own destiny." But, the heart always follows where instinct leads it.

"Mga Batang Bangketa"

D: Angelito AJ De Guzman

S: Camille Prats, Marco Alcaraz

Angelito De Guzman resurrects his father's 1970 melodrama, "Mga Batang Bangketa," a dated and distended cryathon about Clarissa (Camille Prats) and her siblings, who live with a group of orphans and street urchins in *bangketas* on the *esteros* of Sta. Cruz after running away from an abusive, alcoholic father (Juan Rodrigo) and a two-timing *Japayuki* mother (Melissa Mendez).

Together, they face drug dealers, abusive cops, sexual predators, diamond-smuggling goons—and hunger.

The movie features shameless displays of lachrymose caterwauling, bad dialogue (do tough cops really say things like "hate *na* hate *ko talaga 'yon*!"?), and actors who burst into badly sung and awkwardly choreographed song-and-dance routines.

With the copious tears expended in the film, it isn't hard to believe that acting can, indeed, be dangerous to an actor's—and viewer's—health.

But, the irony of the DepEd-endorsed film's distribution and exhibition isn't lost on us: Is this

LAVISH/ A2-6

Cooking tilt maintains frenetic pace

By Noelani Torre

IF THE CATCHPHRASE, "ALLEZ! CUISINE!," doesn't hold any significance for you, then you've been missing out on one of cable television's tastier treats.

The opening words to "Iron Chef" literally mean "Go! Kitchen!" They signal the start of a cooking show that has amassed a following in practically every country on the planet that has access to a lifestyle channel.

Originally aired in Japan from 1993 to 1999, and constantly being replayed ever since, "Iron Chef" is not your typical cooking show. It features a charismatic announcer, a culinary showdown between two renowned chefs, and—literally—a secret ingredient.

Flamboyant

This mix of hot competition, flamboyance, gastronomic delights, and the pressure of a 60-minute time limit is a winner—and the savvy people on American television immediately picked up on it.

However, the first attempt at creating an American version, dubbed "Iron Chef USA," was an unequivocal disaster. Hosted by William Shatner, who tried to do a Chairman Kaga (the original's colorful announcer), it looked more like a parody than a real show, and only had two episodes.

Success came when the Food Network tried its hand at the same format last year. Their version, "Iron Chef America," is now enjoying a second hit season.

The American Iron Chefs are Masaharu Morimoto, Mario Batali, Cat Cora and Bobby Flay—celebrity chefs whom Lifestyle Channel watchers will no doubt recognize.

In every episode, one of them is chosen by the Chairman (played by actor Mark Dacascos) to contend with a challenger, who is usually another well-known chef. Then, the secret ingredient, which the contenders must use in five different dishes, is revealed.

Exciting

In one of the previous season's most exciting shows, "Hot Off the Grill," Flay battled famed "East Meets West" chef Ming Tsai. Their secret ingredient: Duck.

Seconds after the revelation, the two chefs literally ran to their respective sections in the Kitchen Stadium, and started chopping and mixing away at a breathless pace. Cooking, this episode shows us, *can* be an action-packed event!

Announcer Alton Brown (of "Good Eats") gave a well-informed commentary on the various culinary processes, and one could only marvel at Flay's and Ming's feverish intensity.

It was not unlike watching a car race, in fact, only even more impressive. These people didn't just have to cross the finish line, they also had to create a five-course meal that had to look like a work of art, be original and, of course, taste delicious!

Most memorable

The frenetic yet graceful pace was mainly what made this episode most memorable, but Ming's hi-tech way of separating duck skin from the meat (an air pump was involved) and his *foie gras crème brulee* certainly left an impression, as well. The winner, needless to say, was Ming Tsai, though Flay put up a very good fight.

For loyal "Iron Chef" fans, this toned-down version may not afford that much entertainment. But, if you're a foodie, you won't mourn the loss of Chairman Kaga's rhinestone-studded capes. Instead, you'll celebrate the fact that the competing chefs can still tell the viewer how to make 10-ingredient grits!

TSAI. "East Meets West's" chef emerged victorious in intense showdown with Bobby Flay.

"THE FLIGHT THAT FOUGHT BACK." Takes stories out of the fuzzy realm of hearsay, into inspiring fact.

Compelling documentary about terrorism and heroism

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST MONTH, DISCOVERY CHANNEL aired an especially gripping documentary, "The Flight That Fought Back," about the fourth aircraft in the 9-11 terrorist attacks. You'll recall that the first two planes hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the third slammed into the Pentagon, while the fourth crashed into a field in Virginia.

Evidence

At first, some investigators didn't connect the fourth aircraft to the 9-11 terrorist plot. Soon enough, however, evidence surfaced that made the connection clear, and stories began to be told about the heroism of the crashed aircraft's passengers.

"The Flight That Fought Back" is a particularly impressive production because it authoritatively takes the stories out of the fuzzy realm of hearsay, into inspiring fact.

The documentary bases its treatment on a surprisingly large number of cell phone conversations that the doomed passengers had with their relatives while the hijack was in progress.

Particularly moving were recordings of the actual conversations, during which viewers heard the surprisingly calm voices of the hostaged passengers.

At first, the passengers simply reported that their plane had been skyjacked. Soon enough, however, they were voicing their suspicion that their aircraft was part of a larger plot against the United States.

Under attack

This happened after one of the relatives reported to a passenger that the World Trade Center was under attack.

Thinking fast, the passengers concluded that their plane was headed for its own target, which they later pinpointed as either the White House or the Capitol in Washington, DC.

They came to this conclusion after their plane took a 40-minute "detour" to the Washington area. They then weighed their options: Would they "obediently" go down with the plane, or would they try to gain control of it by joining forces to attack the terrorists in the aircraft's cockpit?

Heroically, they decided to put the second option into play—and this is where the documentary reaches truly impressive and moving heights of heroic drama.

Passengers

That drama makes for involving viewing, and is rendered even more compelling by the intense portrayals of the actors who play the heroic passengers in the program's

COMPELLING/ A2-5

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Heroes

IT WAS ON FEB. 22, 1986 WHEN JUAN Ponce-Enrile and his men realized that their attempted coup against Marcos had been discovered by Gen. Fabian Ver. *That* was when the uprising began.

This account is included in the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's latest 90-minute video documentary, **"Edsa 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan,"** produced to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution.

Objective

The docu's objective is to "acknowledge the real 'heroes' of the 1986 Revolution, as well as little-known individuals whose contributions to the success of the uprising have been glossed over or virtually forgotten"—people like Silvestre Afable III (Enrile's former special assistant, who shares details of the coup plot); a former member of the Presidential Security Command, who revealed the plot to his superiors after Enrile's RAM group attempted to recruit him, and Avelino Razon (Fidel Ramos' former security officer, who adamantly claims that holding out in Camps Aguinaldo and Crame was never in his group's original plan).

Other personalities

HEROES/ A2-5

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PG-13

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R-13

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R-13

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Spotlight on women directors at Bangkok filmfest

By Nestor U. Torre

AT THE BANGKOK INTERNATional Film Festival last week, we focused on a number of special concerns. One of them was the rise of female directors in international cinema.

The well-programmed festival enabled us to appreciate the unique contributions of female directors from a wide range of countries.

Attraction

From South Africa, Hermine Huntgebuth was represented by "White Masai," an important film about a Swiss woman on vacation in Kenya, whose powerful attraction to a Masai warrior inspired her to leave her boyfriend and follow her heart.

Contrasting races

The film explored not just women's issues in Africa, but also the many fascinating ways that people belonging to two contrasting races are different—and the same.

Frenchwoman Diane Bertrand does some playing around with races of her own: In "The Ring Finger," she has taken Japanese writer Yoko Ogawa's novel and transposed it to the industrial waterfront of Hamburg. In Bertrand's adaptation, a female factory worker shares a room with a seaman she never sees, and has an enigmatic relationship with her employer.

FOGWILL. Directs "Kept and Dreamless."

Vera Fogwill, an actress and playwright from Argentina, directs "Kept and Dreamless," a film about a nine-year-old girl who has to take care of her junkie mother, who in turn is hired as a maid by her former best friend, a rich and spoiled housewife. How can the mother get out of the rut she's in? Her gutsy daughter provides the answer.

From Switzerland, Ruxandra Zenide's "Ryna" is about the teenage daughter of an oppressive man who longed for a son, and thus forces her to dress and act like a boy.

Change

One day, she falls in love, and she wears a dress for the first time in her life. Sadly, she is betrayed by the men who are closest to her, and she decides to change her life.

Raya Sadat, a filmmaker from Afghanistan, directs "Three Dots," about the plight of women after the war there. Without the protection of a husband and family, they are easy prey.

Warlord

After a six-year drought, she is forced to marry a brutal old warlord, who makes her a courier for an opium-smuggling ring. The ring is busted, and she is arrested.

Instructively, Sadat is Afghanistan's youngest filmmaker, a 24-year-old woman who taught herself filmmaking by studying manuals smuggled from the west.

And, impressively, "Three Dots" won the top prize at the Afghan Film Festival!

Japanese thespian in US movies

By Behn Cervantes

BEFORE THE PACIFIC WAR, PEOple of Japanese descent in Hollywood were relegated to playing Oriental gardeners working for the rich and famous. But, few people are aware that a Japanese actor had already made his mark in the film capital in the early part of the 20th century.

In 1913, Kintaro "Sessue" Hayakawa stopped by Los Angeles after his graduation from the University of Chicago.

A descendant of a Japanese aristocratic line, the young man was denied a military career because of partial deafness, so he turned to the legitimate stage.

Theater

In Los Angeles, he decided to become a part of a Japanese theater troupe, where his talent was immediately noticed. The young Japanese was later offered a film contract by producer Thomas Ince, who found Hayakawa an "exotic and expressive" actor—he was different: His controlled style of acting was in direct contrast to the broad gestures that characterized the acting styles of many thespians of the silent film era.

In Sessue's performances, he incorporated the measured, minimalist movement of traditional Japanese theater, particularly the esoteric Noh. Thus, the 25-year-old became quite a screen personality after a successful appearance in "The Typhoon" in 1914.

HAYAKAWA. His approach to acting was a combination of the Method and Zen.

In 1915, his restrained portrayal of a lecherous villain in Cecil B. de Mille's "The Cheat" impressed critics. He soon set up his own company, Haworth Pictures, which eventually produced more than 20 pictures.

Approach

Hayakawa's approach to acting was considered a combination of the Method and Zen. He acted in Hollywood films until 1923, during which time he played "exotic" heroes and memorable villains.

However, Hayakawa decided to leave Hollywood to try his luck in Europe. He had avid fans in France, where he starred in films like "Le Bataille" and "Ja'I tue."

After the war in the late '40s, he made a Hollywood comeback, wrote a novel, "The Bandit Prince," a play, "The Life of the Buddha," and a spiritual biography, "Zen Showed Me the Way."

Quiet presence

I am a fan of Hayakawa, as were Lino Brocka, Adul de Leon and Joonee Gamboa. As a student of film acting, I was impressed by his quiet presence as the distressed Japanese commander in David Lean's 1957 war classic, "The Bridge on the River Kwai."

I thought it was ridiculous that Alec Guinness won the Oscar for best actor, while Hayakawa was denied the well-deserved honor in the best supporting actor category. *That* was one of my early but distinct disenchantments with the Academy Awards.

Sessue had already delivered impressive performances in "Tokyo Joe," "Three Came Home" and "Les Miserables." He later appeared in "Geisha Boy" with Jerry Lewis, "Green Mansions" with Audrey Hepburn, and "The Swiss Family Robinson."

The well-respected Hayakawa died in 1979. But, he had opened Hollywood's doors for many Japanese actors who came after him.

'Momma' loses steam

By Noelani Torre

GUY PUTS ON OLD-LADY FAT SUIT AND poses as nanny. Sound familiar? This is more or less what Robin Williams did—very well—in "Mrs. Doubtfire," and is what Martin Lawrence is doing now in "Big Momma's House 2."

The sequel to "Big Momma's House," the movie has FBI agent, Malcolm Turner (Lawrence), donning a brassy wig, fat suit, and tent-like dresses once more!

This time, he needs to infiltrate the enemy camp—the household of a possibly erring software CEO—in order to find out whether Daddy has been selling dangerous software to the bad guys. And he has to do all this without backup, since he's *not* supposed to be working on the case in the first place.

Pregnant wife

While in the house, Big Momma bonds with the kids—one of whom doesn't speak and likes to jump off heights—while his very pregnant wife (Nia Long) back home thinks that he's having an affair. It's a subplot that looks like it could have been engineered just to set up the giant-thong joke.

The entire story, in fact, looks like it was thought up by people who were just looking for the slightest chance to get Lawrence to wear his fat suit again. Why anybody would want to do that is a mystery. How many fat lady jokes can you crack?

Lawrence is amusing in his Big Momma get-up, but no amount of comical posing and mouthing-off can cover up all of the holes in this crossdressing caper. The plot is one improbability after another, and it's stretched too thinly even for a slapstick comedy.

LAWRENCE. Dons brassy wig and fat suit again.

Sentimental lines

Interestingly, when Lawrence is himself—that is, Malcolm Turner—he ceases to be funny. In "BMH2," if he's not stuffed in a fat suit, he's saddled with sentimental lines and general sappiness. You can OD on the sugar while you're waiting for a punchline that doesn't come.

On the upside, there's no bathroom humor, and the sexual references are mild, so it's generally family-friendly. Unfortunately, the movie also makes you crave for more raucous fare, if only because its pace is *so* slow.

Arabic proverbs From page A2-7

dove—when it leaves a man's hand, it takes wing.

May these proverbs lighten your burdens in life!

Compelling documentary . . . From page A2-3

dramatizations.

Despite all this hectic intensity, however, what remains in the viewer's heart and mind after the documentary is over is the calm heroism of the passengers.

It's an inspiring view of a tragic situation that has been transformed into a moment of triumph for the human spirit, by the passengers' decision not to bow down to evil—and to fight back!

Heroes From page A2-4

who provided revealing accounts: Former US Ambassador Stephen Bosworth; writer-historian Alfred McCoy; former Army operations chief Lisandro Abadia, and Sisters Terry and Ping, whose photo of praying in front of the tanks became famous worldwide.

Unique insights are likewise provided by political scientist Jose Abueva, newspaper columnist Manuel L. Quezon III and historian Stephen Henry Totanes.

Significance

The documentary's primary target audience is the youth, to remind them of those events and their significance.

Apo member Jim Paredes and TV personality Bianca Gonzalez act as presentors, while Kitchie Nadal provides some songs.

"Edsa 1986: Mga Tinig ng Himagsikan" is directed by Butch Nolasco. The script is written by Nancy and Raul Rodrigo, and musical score is by Von de Guzman. Nestor Torre is project consultant. The special documentary will be shown tomorrow 9 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

Producer

Eugenia Duran Apostol, producer of the documentary, has invited the original staff of Mr. & Ms. to an "Edsa Party" screening of the film.

* * *

Mandy Navasero's Batch 2006 Summer Photoworkshop is scheduled from April 8 to May 27, and the MN Batanes Photo Safari takes place from April 12 to 15 (in cooperation with Fiesta Tours).

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 899-1767.

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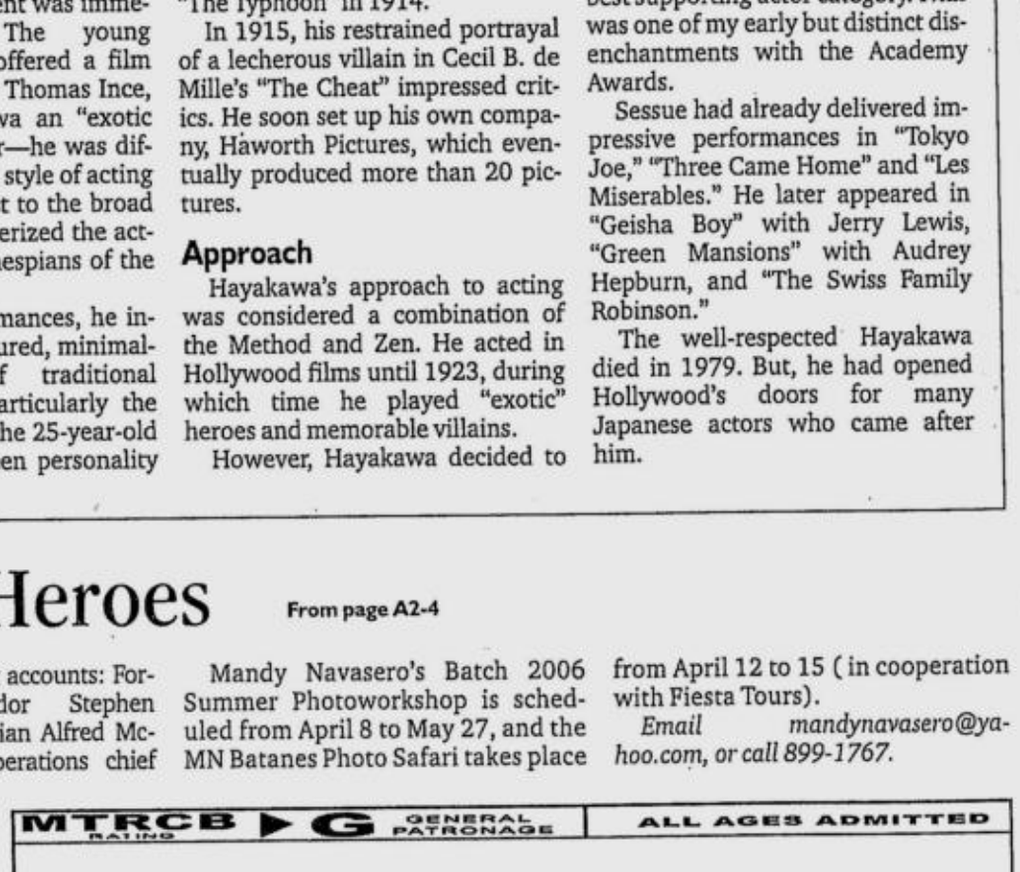

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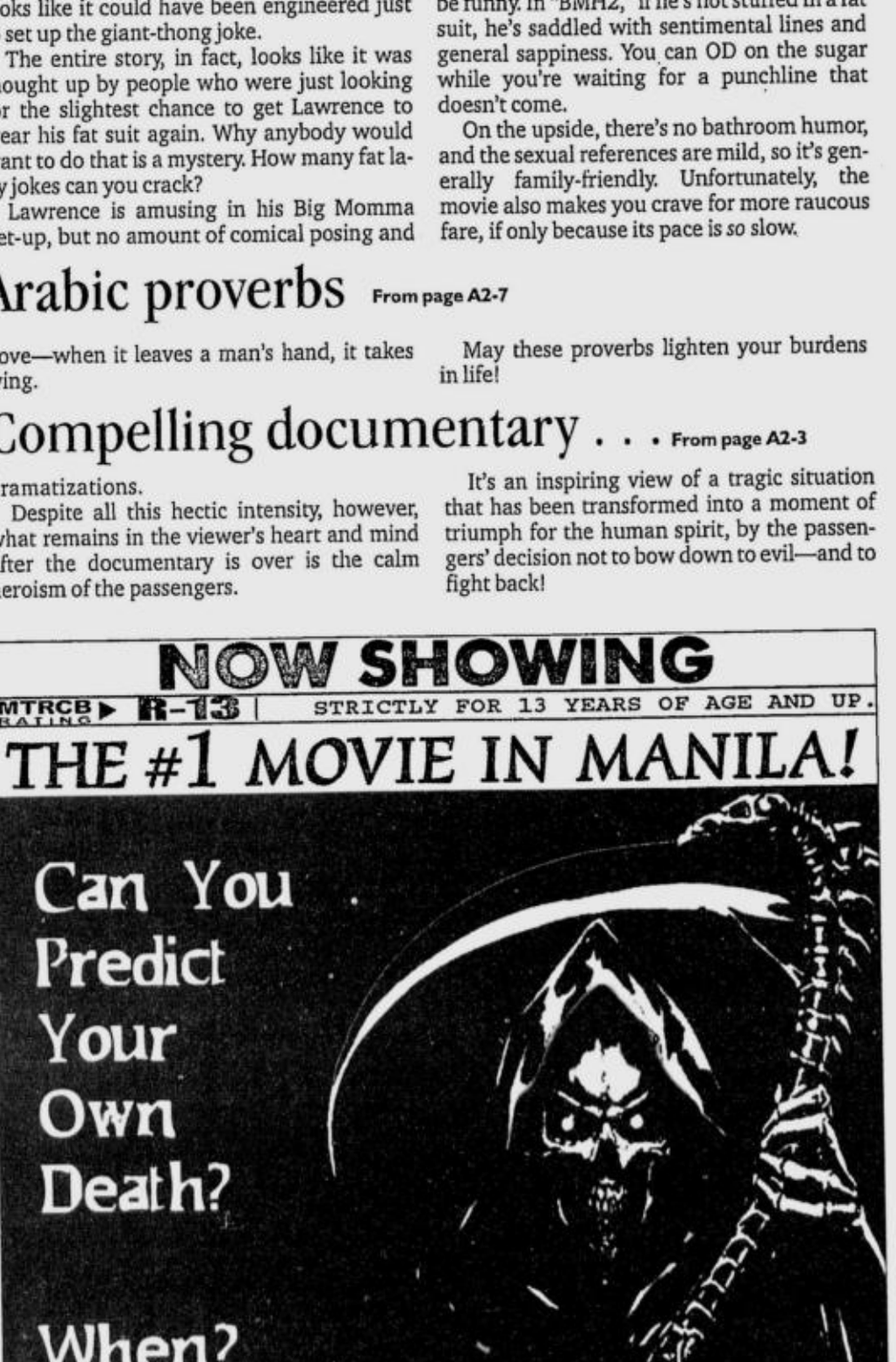


Pinoy performers shine at HK Disneyland

By Rito P. Asilo

THE OPENING OF DISNEYland Hong Kong last September was welcomed by tourists from around Asia with great anticipation—and with good reason.

Despite its US$3.6-billion tag price, Disney's Magic Kingdom on Lantau Island is the smallest among five Disneylands in the world. But, it has an ace on its happy sleeve that the company's theme parks in the US, France and Japan can hardly boast of: *Pinoy* performers.

On our recent trip to Hong Kong, we made it a point to visit Disneyland to see how our colleagues from the local theater industry were doing.

GANNABAN. Plays Shang in "Mulan" segment of "The Golden Mickeys."

LANTERN Castle lights up the Magic Kingdom.

Ubiquitous sightings

Aside from magnificent castles (like the Lantern Castle) and ubiquitous sightings of Disney characters like Snow White, Goofy and the Wicked Witch, the park was bustling with Filipino performers—actors, singers, dancers and musicians, who made a beeline for the cattle call early last year—and we were delighted to see them doing so well.

After a theater conference at the Fringe Club, we hopped on the Disney line of the MTR (the island's version of our MRT), and rushed to Disneyland.

We headed straight to the Storybook Theater, a state-of-the-art performance venue in the Magic Kingdom's Fantasyland, where performances of "The Golden Mickeys"—a 30-minute song-and-dance revue that features a potpourri of Disney's classics in an Oscar-like awards show—are staged all day long.

We had to join a long queue for half an hour before the gates opened to make sure we'd make it inside the theater.

To say the least, the show was worth the long wait. We weren't just dazzled by its pomp and spectacle, we were likewise bursting with pride when we saw familiar faces onstage!

Pheona Baranda, playing the affable emcee, held the show together, from her feisty opening spiel to the rollicking finale—although we were quite baffled by Disney's decision to have her speak *only* in Cantonese from beginning to end!

Baranda wasn't the only *Pinoy* performer who wowed the huge, rambunctious crowd.

Rabbi Gannaban, who played Commander Shang, the Chinese warrior in the "Mulan" segment, cut a dashing, imposing figure onstage. Noel Rayos played Quasimodo, the tragic protagonist from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." (Ampy Sietereales and Sheila Valderrama, who weren't onstage that day, also play important roles in the revue.)

There were set pieces and special effects that we've seen only on the West End's staging of "The Lion King" in London. Some of the show's breathtaking visual moments: As Ariel ("The Little Mermaid") gracefully descended from a harness and "floated" amidst a sea of colorful creatures, bubbles started to fill the whole venue, enabling the audience to join in the illusion of being under the sea!

Naturally, the familiar characters and their respective songs were a hit with the Disney-weaned crowd. But, the best tune sung that afternoon was, ironically, not even a familiar one, sung by the musical's best singer: Tex Ordoñez. (She was also a sight to behold in the "Lilo and Stitch" portion.)

Beaming with pride

We were beaming with pride when we met Tex, Rabbi and Pheona after the show. Despite our hectic schedule, the "conniving" trio wouldn't allow us to leave the park without trying out its best rides, including the nightmarish Space Mountain (imagine taking a rollercoaster ride in space—jeepers!).

But, seeing them was the best treat for us. Rabbi, a resident director of New Voice, directed "The Blue Room" last year.

Like Gannaban, Baranda honed her thespic chops at NVC. We directed her in "The Vagina Monologues" and "Cabaret."

Ordoñez, on the other hand, was discovered when she was plucked from the chorus of Nestor Torre and Nonoy Gallardo's "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?," to take over the role of Jose Rizal's mom, *Doña* Teodora Alonzo, from theater veteran Joy Virata when the production had to tour around the country.

We are particularly close to Tex because we toured Torre and Ryan Cayabyab's long-running "Magnificat," where she alternated with Pinky Marquez for the role of the Virgin Mary. (She even learned to speak Visayan when the popular musical's Cebuano version opened in Davao in 1999!)

Acclaim

She later won acclaim for her scene-stealing performances in Bing Pimentel's "Nasaan si Hesus?," Atlantis' "Dreamgirls" and Ballet Philippines' "Darna."

Tex, Rabbi and Pheona are just three of the many *Pinoy* faces in Disney's Magic Kingdom at the former British colony.

Indeed, the Happiest Place on Earth has conquered Hong Kong. *But*, not without the help of some of the hippest, happiest—and best—performers this side of the globe!

Fresh faces, new directions

By Nestor U. Torre

GINO CERVANTES HAS MADE A name for himself in Singapore as stand-up comic, events host and singer.

Now, he's bent on making it in his homeland, which is why he's performing in local venues like Funline, Comic Hall and Himalaya Cafe. Last Feb. 23, he was a guest performer in Julia Clarete's show at Music Museum.

In the soccer drama, "Goal!," up and coming Latino star, Kuno Becker, plays Santiago, an ambitious young man who works at menial jobs to achieve his dream of becoming an international football star.

Challenges

He endures all sorts of challenges—injuries, personal woes, muddy fields, cold winds and crunching blows from teammates—to prove that he deserves to play for the glamorous Premiere English League Club, Newcastle United.

KILCHER. Has been a street singer since she was a kid.

From Japan comes a new trio, Core of Soul. The band is composed of vocalist Fukiko Nakamura, guitarist-bassist Song Rui, and keyboardist-synthesizer Keisuke Iisuka. Rui was an exchange student from Beijing before he decided to join the group in Osaka.

Their two albums, "Natural Beauty" and "Over the Time, Time Is Over," have been chartbusters in Japan. They were Osaka's entry to the Japanese Teen Music Festival.

Core of Soul now records for Toshiba-EMI and has international stardom in sight. Fukiko speaks and sings fluently in English, so her songs have global flavor and appeal. The group will be visiting the Philippines under the auspices of Japan Foundation, Manila.

Sporty edginess

Back here at home, Christian Scholl has been tapped to model for Ducks Unlimited. The Fil-German comer was chosen for his sporty edginess, a quality deemed right for Ducks fashions.

Viva has signed up "Star in A Million" finalists, Jimmy Marquez, Vino Bello and Jay Perillo. Viva Records and Viva Artists Agency has big plans for the young singers. Other VAA artists are Anne Curtis, Rachelle Ann Go and Mark Bautista.

All the way from London's West End comes news that the revival production of "Evita" in June will star an Argentine performer, Elena Roger. The new production at the Adelphi Theater will be directed by Michael Grandage.

And, the current film, "The New World," topbills fresh young actress, Q'Orianka Kilcher, as Pocahontas. Kilcher's father is a Peruvian Quechua Indian, and her mother is Swiss.

Reviewers believe that the 15-year-old actress runs away with the film, which is directed by the acclaimed Terrence Malick.

Interview

We caught a TV interview in which Kilcher revealed that she's also a singer, and in fact has been a street singer ever since she was a kid. She was so good that she made *hundreds* of dollars in tips each day!

For proof positive, she did some singing on the TV show—and she got a standing ovation from the studio audience. Clearly, she should star in a musical soon!

Gary, Zsa Zsa display strong bond in post-Valentine show

By Jocelyn Valle

AFTER HONing his performing chops as part of La Salle Greenhills' Kundirana in the early '80s, Gary Valenciano embarked on a professional career as a soloist.

At around the same time, Zsa Zsa Padilla had just ended her stint with the popular Hotdog band to find her niche in the biz as a soloist. They both soon invaded the music scene and the movie industry, as well.

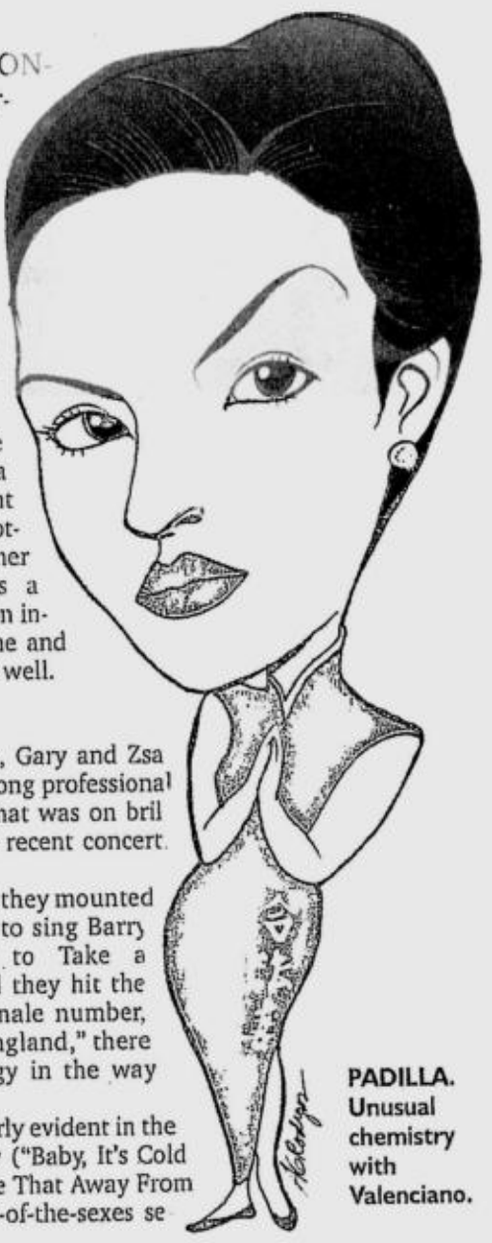
Concert

Through the years, Gary and Zsa Zsa have forged a strong professional and personal bond that was on brilliant display in their recent concert "Faces of Love."

From the moment they mounted the NBC Tent stage to sing Barry Manilow's "Ready to Take a Chance Again" until they hit the last note of their finale number, "Weekend in New England," there was ease and energy in the way they interacted.

This was particularly evident in the big-band era medley ("Baby, It's Cold Outside," "Can't Take That Away From Me") and the battle-of-the-sexes sequence.

They then let the audience experience the magic of their first recorded collaboration, "Could We?."



PADILLA. Unusual chemistry with Valenciano.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Ageless

Gary and Zsa Zsa likewise shone in their solo numbers. Padilla performed songs from local soaps, while Valenciano sang movie themes. The duo looked ageless onstage. Then, they presented their special guests: Gary's son, Paolo, and Zsa Zsa's daughter, Karylle.

Paolo and Karylle "taught" their parents newer songs by pop-rock acts, Hale, Kitchie Nadal, Barbie Almalbis and Rivermaya. And Gary and Zsa Zsa "imparted" music-history lessons to their kids *via* '80s tunes by The Police and The Go-Gos.

'A Heart's Journey' at Crossroad 77

JOSE MARI CHAN WILL PERform with Isay Alvarez in "A Heart's Journey" at Crossroad 77 (Mother Ignacia corner Sct. Reyes, QC) tonight. Concert beneficiary is the Meridian International Learning Experience. The show is the fifth in a series of the More Than Valentine presentations of Creative Futures Inc. Call 374-4822.

MONTAGE

CHAN. Performs with Isay Alvarez.

Jolina's mall tour

Jolina Magdangal's "Tuloy Pa Rin Ang Awit" mall tour hits SM City Fairview at 5 p.m. today. Other tour dates: March 4, SM City Bacoor; March 11, San Lazaro; March 17, Iloilo; March 25, Las Piñas (Southmall), and March 31, Manila.

Savannah sings

All Wednesdays of February, new singing find, Savannah, performs with Richard Merk at Merk's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 3. Savannah has done musical theater, and recorded an album in South Africa. Call 757-4720.

'Birhen ng Caysasay'

The hit religious musical, "Birhen ng Caysasay," was performed in Batangas City yesterday at the Lyceum of Batangas and will be staged at 3 p.m. today at the University of Batangas.

For future performances, call producer Ramon Orlina at (632) 781-5918. The musical stars Cocoy Laurel, Ivy Violan and Tommy Abuel.

'Saganang Ani 2006'

The NCCA and the City of Manila present a free 12-hour musical marathon, "Saganang Ani 2006," at the Baywalk on Feb. 25 and 26. Many musical styles will be represented. Call 926-0028.

LAUREL. Topbills popular religious musical.

Charity ball

A sunset cocktail reception, dinner and dancing to retro music are among the highlights of the 57th Annual George Washington Birthnight Ball presented by the American Association of the Philippines.

The charity ball will be held at 6 p.m. today at the US Embassy. Proceeds will help destitute Americans and Fil-American children in the country. Call 892-5198.

'Equator'

The Animal Planet's "Equator" show at 9 every Saturday night examines animal and plant life in six of the equatorial "Hot zones"—the Rift Valley in Africa, the Andes, Southeast Asia, Indo-Pacific, and the Galapagos islands. Replays on Thursdays at 11 p.m. Tonight's episode: "Reef of Riches."

'The Rat Pack'

Relive the timeless songs of Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Dean Martin, collectively known as The Rat Pack, on March 25 at the Araneta Coliseum. Their repertoire will be interpreted by the group's impressionists from Las Vegas. Call 374-2222 or 374-9999.

On Star Movies today

At 6:30 p.m., "Love Actually" with Hugh Grant and Keira Knightley. 9 p.m., "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" with Vince Vaughn. 10:45 p.m., "The Day After Tomorrow" with Dennis Quaid.

'Halina sa Parokya'

The "Halina sa Parokya" album mall tour hits Robinson's Place Manila on Feb. 26 at 5 p.m.

Erik Santos

On Feb. 26, Erik Santos will sing cuts from his latest album, "Loving You Now," at SM Southmall. On Feb. 27, his mall tour moves to SM Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

'JayR'

The "JayR" album mall tour goes to Robinson's Galleria on Feb. 26. Jay R will be performing songs like "Just the Way you Are," "Hey ma" and "Ngayo'y Narito."

MJCN centennial concert

Dulce and Personal Revival Asia (Prasia) team up for a thanksgiving concert that launches the centennial celebration of the Mary Johnston College of Nursing of Philippine Christian university, at 6 p.m. on Feb. 27 at Philamlife Theater. Call 245-0806 or 245-0824, or log onto www.mjcn8.org for other activities in the centennial celebration.

Lavish . . .

From page A2-2

really the kind of movie SM's R rating-shy cineplexes prefer over Ang Lee's groundbreaking "Brokeback Mountain"? I rest my case.

"Syriana"

D: Stephen Gaghan

S: George Clooney, Matt Damon

Stephen Gaghan's cerebral political thriller is not for everyone. You have to be in a certain mindframe to endure the production's convoluted plot—about the war and intrigue waged by nations in their quest for oil dominance.

But, your patience will be greatly rewarded by the movie's relevant arguments about power, greed, ideology and family. The film posits that everything is interconnected, thus the cut-and-paste snippets of sequences.

George Clooney—minus the characteristic preening and head-tilting—takes on an unlikely character, as CIA operative Bob Barnes, and gained 35 lbs. for the role (courtesy of a pasta-heavy diet).

On the other hand, Matt Damon delivers a touching performance as Bryan Woodman, an Arab prince's economic adviser who grieves over the accidental death of his son—an unfortunate casualty in man's quest for wealth and power.

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Arabic Proverbs

WE WOULD LIKE TO share with you these Arabic proverbs that may enlighten your life:

• The wound that bleedeth inwardly is the most dangerous.

• The wound of words is worse than the wound of swords.

• Patience is beautiful.

Three things

• Only three things in life are certain: Birth, death and change.

• He who plants thorns must never expect to gather roses.

• Every day of your life is a page in your history.

• Every ambitious man is a captive, and every covetous one is a pauper.

• Arrogance is a weed that grows mostly on a dunghill.

• Arrogance diminishes wisdom.

• A horse of good breed is not dishonored by his saddle.

Inquiry

• A foolish man may be known by six things: Anger without cause, speech without profit, life without progress, inquiry without object, putting trust in a stranger, and mistaking foes for friends.

• The one-eyed person is a beauty in the country of the blind.

• A secret is like a

ARABIC/ A2-5

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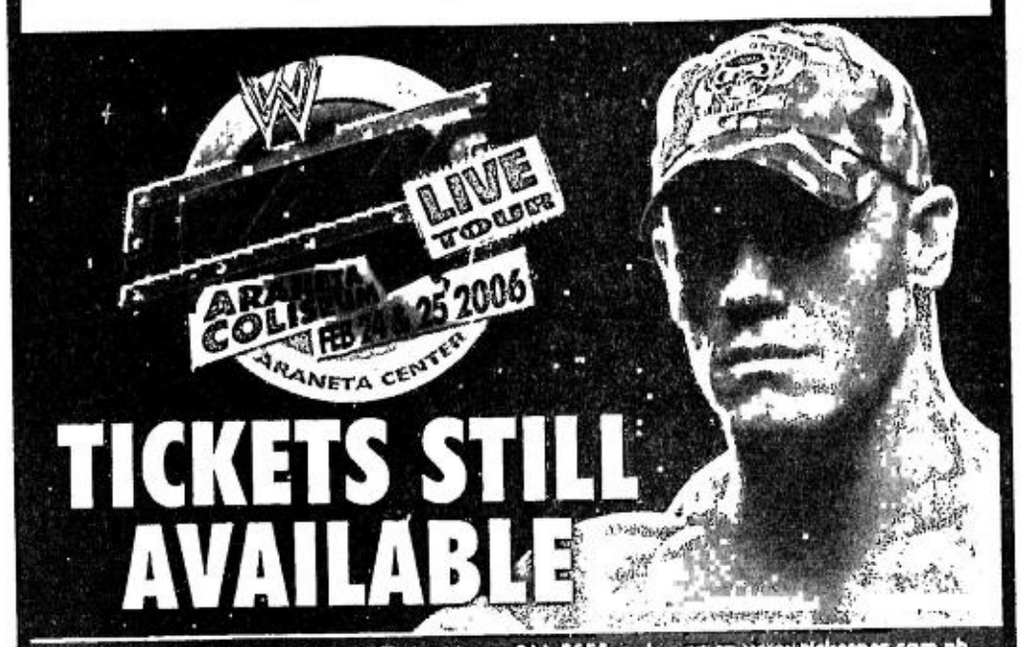

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PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 6:00 - 11:00 pm	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 / 9:50	PINK PANTHER 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	ONLY P170 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P240/P299

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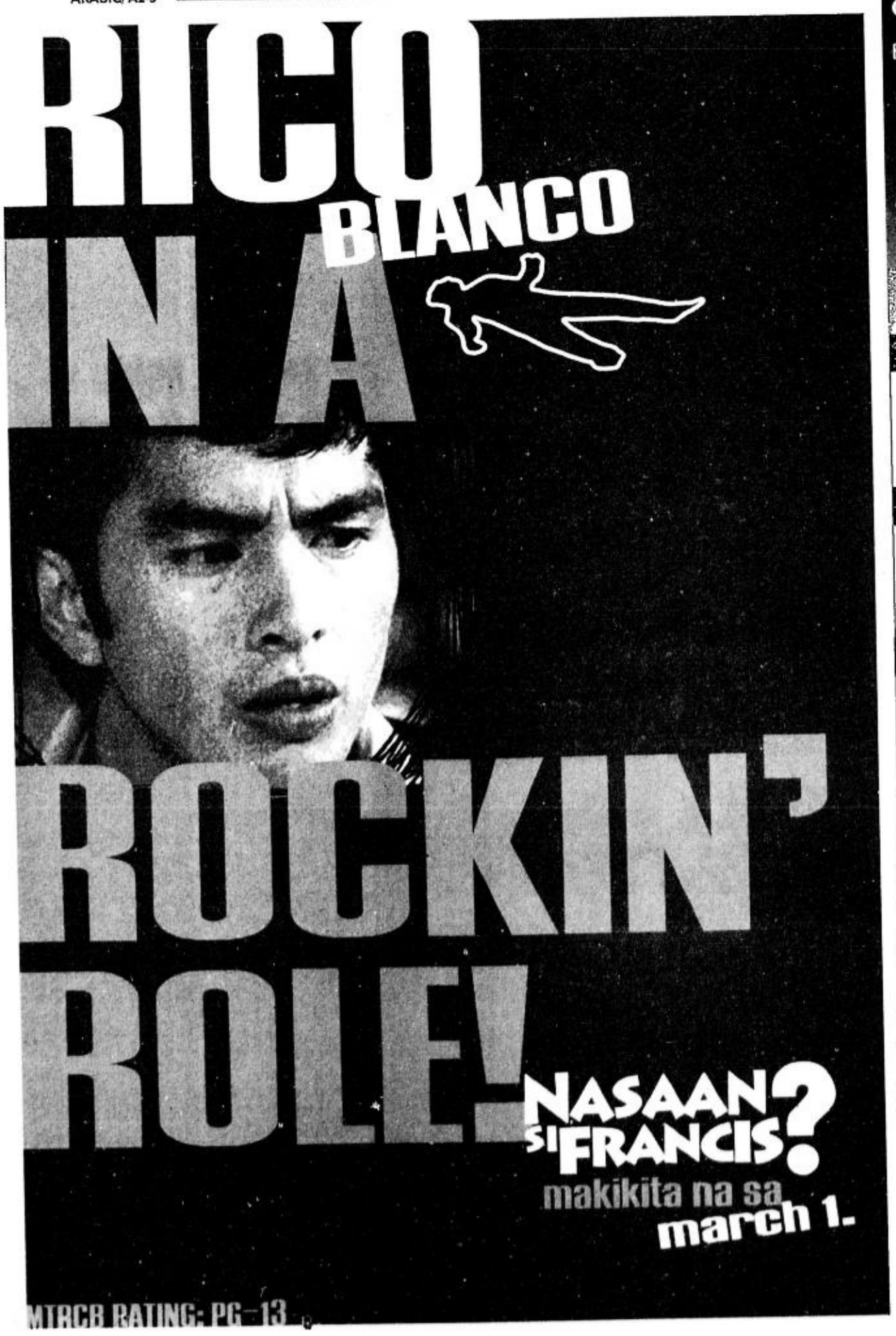

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12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MURDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 AEON FLUX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 PINK PANTHER
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ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
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2 MURDER
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6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
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7 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

8 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

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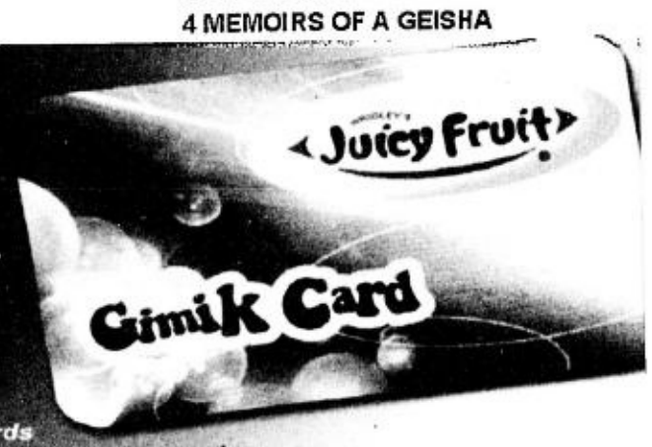

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Thailand releases first animated feature

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR YEARS NOW, WE'VE BEEN persuading some Filipino movie producers to finance the making of full-length animated features. Thus far, however, nobody has taken the plunge, due to the big budget and long production time involved.

As one producer admitted, the local tendency is to aim for short-range investments and recouping costs in only a few months. The two- to four-year schedule for many animated features turns off producers here because "our money would be 'sleeping' for such a long time."

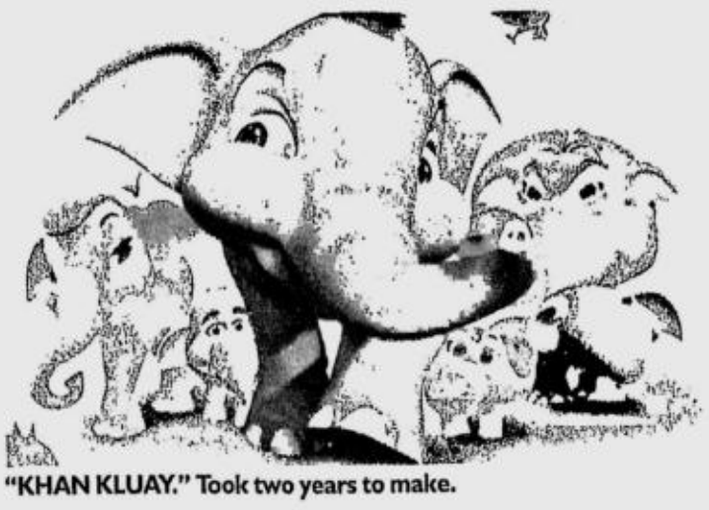
Investment

That's too bad, because Filipino film talents are well suited to make animated features. Quite a number of Filipino animators have been hired by studios abroad, so all we need is the cinematic "political" will, major investment in time and money, and more eventful storytelling to come up with animated features that can be sold to film markets all over the world.

Big advanatge

That's the big advantage of animated features over other film types: they're largely visual, so they can be understood by and appeal to all sorts of viewers in different countries.

We gained these insights when we covered the production of Dreamworks' "The Prince of Egypt" and "Shrek" in Los Angeles. The lessons we learned there were made more significant by our interviews with Filipino animators and story editors who worked for Dreamworks, and some of them expressed the willingness and even the desire to come to Manila to help Filipino animated feature-film production get a good start.



"KHAN KLUAY." Took two years to make.

These thoughts come to mind, because we've just viewed 20 minutes' worth of edited footage from the first Thai animated feature, which will be completed and premiered this May, after which it will be sold internationally.

Titled "Khan Kluay, The King's Elephant," the 84-minute feature is produced by Kanatana Animation in Bangkok, and has taken two years to make it to the big screen.

The film is about a curious and naughty young elephant who goes on a journey to look for his missing father. He learns a lot from the difficulties and colorful characters he encounters along the way.

He also learns to live with humans, and this eventually leads to self-sacrifice as he goes to war as one of King Naresuan's "cavalry" of elephants in the 1500s.

Sequences

The opening sequences we viewed in Katakana's screening room impressed us with the production's cute characters and colorful images. The Thais we talked to agreed with us that the movie would be a huge hit with the country's child and family audiences.

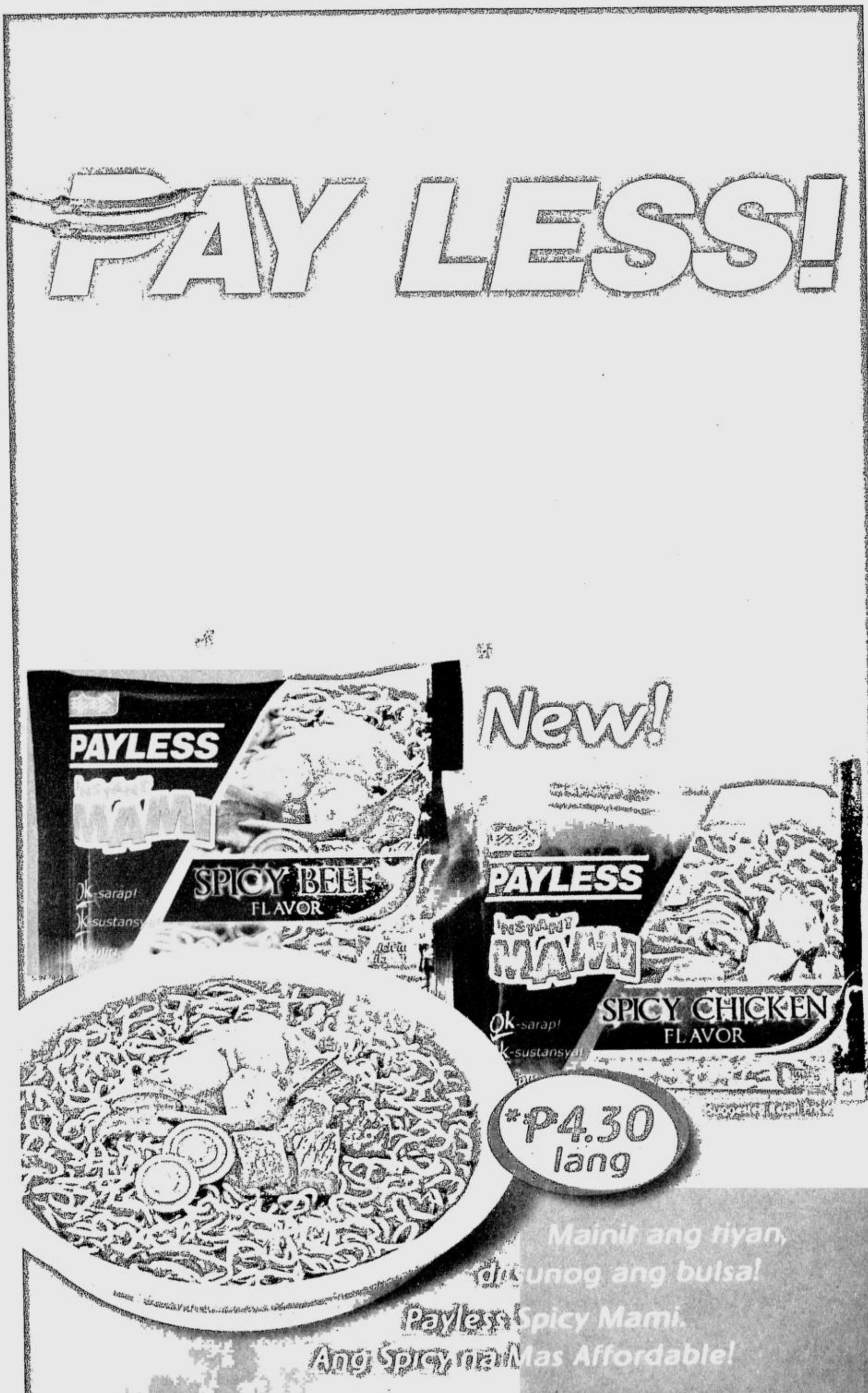
On point of worldwide distribution, however, the movie could be faulted abroad, especially in the west, for its rather slow storytelling.

Still, some markets may favor it for its exotic qualities, and "Khan Kluay" could enjoy a good international run.

Preview

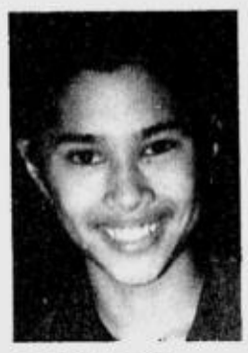
As we viewed its partial preview, we found ourselves rueing the fact that we weren't watching a Filipino animated feature. Well, perhaps in a few more years?

P.S.: "Khan Kluay" cost 120,000,000 bahts to produce—that isn't much more than the budget for the 2005 Metro filmfest movie, "Exodus," so we trust that an intrepid and far-sighted Filipino producer or a consortium of financiers bankrolls a local animated feature soon!



Isabella takes the jazz route

By Remy M. Umerez



ISABELLA. Wants to explore other forms of expression.

TWENTY ONE-YEAR-old Isabella Maria Francesca grew up to the haunting music of her mother, Kuh Ledesma. It was just a matter of time before she would follow the footsteps of her famous mom.

Admittedly, she loves music, but her young mind wants to explore other forms of expression. She found herself drawn to abstract painting.

Singing career

Last year, however, Francesca decided to embark on a singing career. Kuh was delighted, but had this simple piece of advice for her daughter: "Go ahead if it will make you happy, but be serious and professional about it. Don't enter into it half-heartedly!"

Isabella was reintroduced to the public last Feb. 13 and 14 in her special Valentine concert, "Jazz You, Jazz Me," at the newly opened Teatrino in Greenhills. She was joined by Richard Merk, whom she considers her mentor.

She was grateful for the opportunity. For his part, Richard guided Isabella, and taught her everything he knew about jazz. He gave her a book on the history of jazz.

Enthusiasm

Richard was happy to discover Isabella's passion and enthusiasm for the musical genre that was passed on to him by his mother, the legendary Annie Brazil. "She knew more jazz titles than I did. She sang songs that inspired, and tunes that conveyed good values," Merk shared.

Isabella's collection of jazz titles includes an impressive mix of top names, from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaugh, Billie Holiday to contemporary artists like Michael Bublé.

Lazaro holds on to Raven's dream

By Jocelyn Valle

AFTER SURVIVING TWO MAJOR OPERATIONS that were supposed to have cured his obstructive jaundice in September 2001, Ray Ventura excitedly talked about his wish to revitalize the theater scene in the country. He chose to recuperate in Baguio, but a month later, the much-admired actor passed away.

For his part, Ventura's friend, Ronnie Lazaro, doesn't want his colleague's dream to die. So, he put up Ang Filipino Mobile Theater two years ago. "It's an offshoot of Teatro Telecine, the theater group that Raven and I formed with Pen Medina in the '90s," he explains.

Respectable salaries

"We wanted to uplift the state of theater and provide respectable salaries for actors. The movie industry has been having a rough time, and we felt that acting in stage plays was a good fallback. And something that we truly enjoy doing."

Just like Teatro Telecine, Ang Filipino Mobile Theater chose Rene Villanueva's "Hiblang Abo" as its showpiece. "Aside from the creative challenges that the material poses for actors, it also requires minimal sets, which is perfect for touring," says Ronnie.

Ang Filipino Mobile Theater has seasoned actors on its roster: Lou Veloso, Bodjie Pascua, Archie Adamos, Joe Gruta, Crispin Pineda, Mike Lloren, Soliman Cruz, Sherry Lara, Madeleine Nicolas and Ermie Concepcion. Associate director Rolando Inocencio polishes the act based on the direction of Pen Medina.

Importance

Ronnie adds, "We'd rather give importance to the material, not personalities. This way, we will be able to educate our viewers. We also encourage discussions after each performance."

WHAT'S INSIDE

RP, Indon deal on fisheries extended /B2

Oil firm rolls back gas, diesel pump prices /B6

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Gov't sees 25% jump in income taxes

₱401-B collection seen with rate hike to 35%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVernment expects to raise its income-tax collection by about 25 percent to P401.3 billion this year following the recent increase in the income-tax rate slapped on corporate entities.

The income-tax collection target accounts for 59 percent of the total BIR tax collection goal of P675.35 billion for 2006.

Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag has issued a memorandum directing all assistant commissioners, regional directors and revenue district officers to work on achieving the higher income tax collection target for this year.

The ambitious target of a 25-percent increase in income tax collection from corporate and individual taxpayers follows the shortfall in collections last year.

Documents from the BIR showed that income tax collection for 2005 amounted to only P323.39 billion, or 1.7 percent lower than the P328.92-billion target.

The BIR attributed the lower-than-expected collection last year partly to the decline in earnings by some large companies. But the government said a higher target of more than P400 billion was feasible due to the imposition of the 35-percent corporate income tax rate.

This was increased from 32 percent since Nov. 1 last year under the VAT Reform Law. The VAT law, aside from expanding the coverage of the value-added tax and raising the VAT rate, also increased the corporate income tax rate by 2 percentage points.

The law states that the 35-percent corporate income tax rate will be effective until end-2008, after which it will be brought back to 32 percent by 2009.

The government likewise expects that the proposed simplified net income tax system (SNITS) for individual taxpayers, if implemented, would also help attain the higher income tax collection target.

SNITS, which is pending in Congress, will reduce the allowable deductions for self-employed and professionals and will present a simplified way of tax payments to encourage tax compliance.

The VAT Reform Law, considered a key measure of the Arroyo administration to address the fiscal problem, is expected to help the government wipe out its gaping budget deficit by 2008.

Imports rose 2% to $44.91B in 2005

THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS ROSE by only 2 percent to $44.91 billion last year due to the soft demand for electronics, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

The amount of imports last year partly led to a $3.6-billion deficit in the country's balance of trade as exports in 2005 amounted to only $41.22 billion. The latest trade deficit figure was better than the $4.36 billion recorded in 2004.

Electronics account for nearly half, or 46.6 percent, of the Philippines' total import bill for last year. Electronics imports are composed mostly of raw materials used to assemble finished electronics products, which account for majority of the country's exports.

Due to the cyclical slowdown in the global demand for electronics last year, growth of Philippine exports decelerated to 3.9 percent from a double-digit growth in 2004, resulting in the reduced imports of raw materials.

But while the annual imports growth was measly for most of the months of 2005, it accelerated to 21.7 percent in December when shipments reached $3.97 billion compared with $3.26 billion a year ago.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said the accelerated imports growth in December was consistent with the 16.8-percent expansion in imports during the same month.

The double-digit growths in imports and exports in December indicated that global demand for electronics was already picking up.

"Indication is that the ICT (information and communications technology) sector seems to be standing firm and now leading to an expansion," he said in an interview.

The government originally set the targets of an 11-percent growth in imports and a 10-percent expansion in exports this year, but the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) is in the process of reviewing its macroeconomic targets for possible revisions. The DBCC is the inter-agency body tasked with setting the government's economic policies and targets.

The review of the 2006 targets could lead to downward revisions considering that similar targets set for 2005 were largely missed.

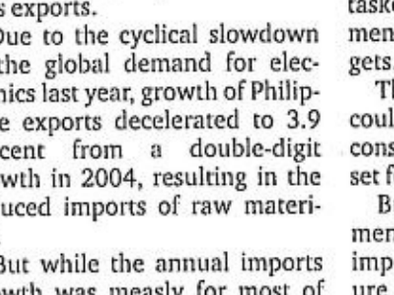
But Arroyo said the government still expected exports and imports to grow by a higher figure this year than last year's, hinting that the new targets could be better than the 3.9-percent actual exports growth and 2-percent actual imports growth last year.

According to the NSO, imports for electronics in December reached $1.85 billion. The second biggest import were mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials at $474.28 million.

Michelle V. Remo

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



FEBRUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.20 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 24, 2006

¥116.62 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 24, 2006

GOLD: $551.90-552.40

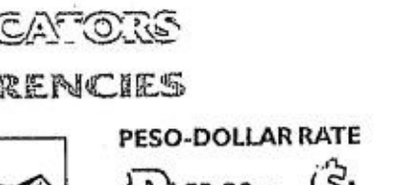
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 24, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall on political concerns

STOCKS FELL yesterday, spooked by the heightened worries of a coup attempt that led President Macapagal-Arroyo to place the country under a state of emergency, traders said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)

"The market's decline today was a result of a knee-jerk reaction," said Citiseconline investment analyst Mark Alan Canizares.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 21.39 points, or one percent, to 2,069.93, after rising 1.1 percent Thursday.

Analysts noted that the sell-off wasn't as bad as earlier anticipated, which may indicate that investors remain generally upbeat for the medium term.

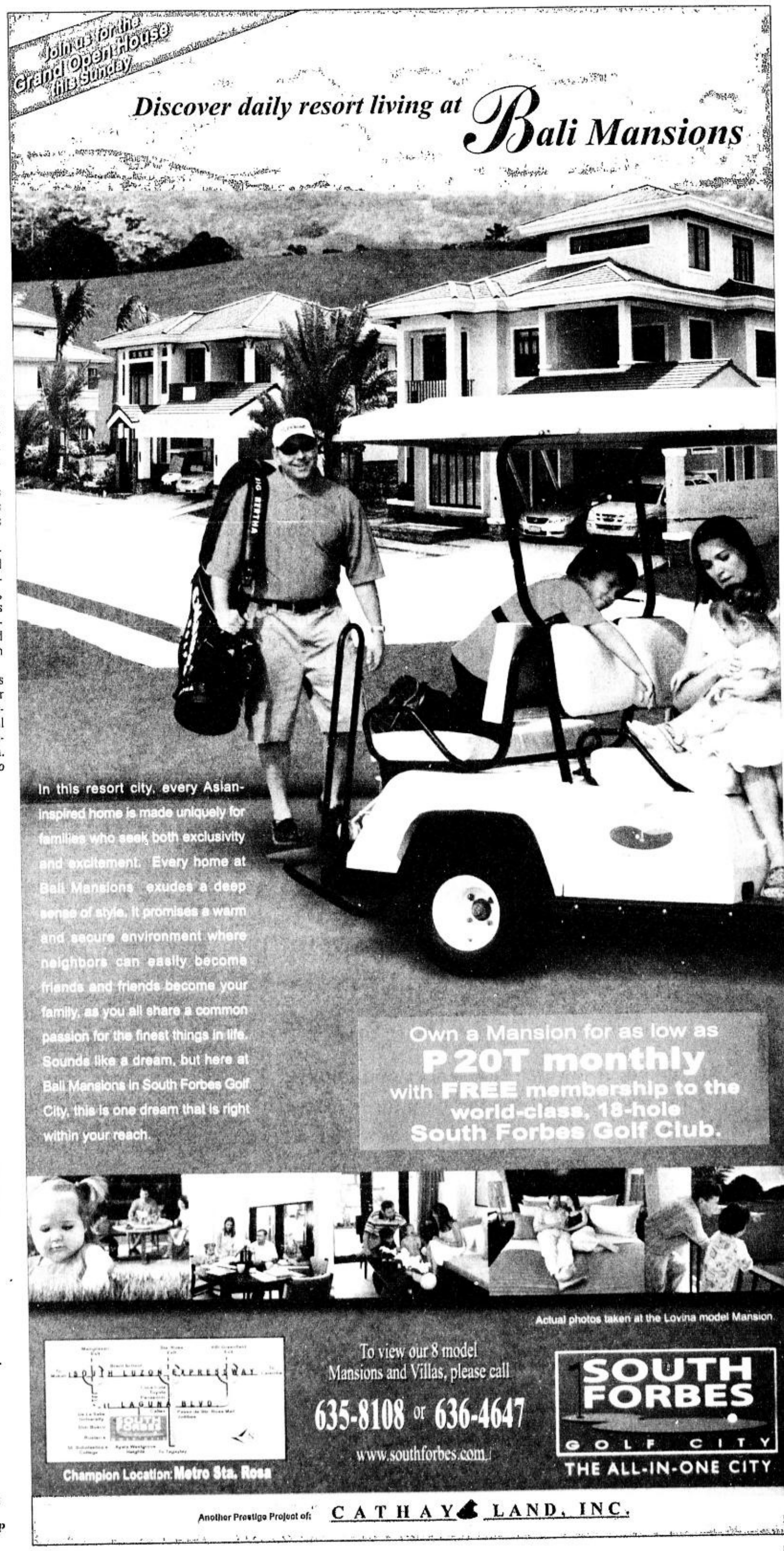
"We were expecting an extreme decline. If there was really panic selling, the market would have gone down deeper," said DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila.

Ayala Corp. gave up 3 percent to P322.50 and unit Ayala Land Inc. dropped 2.3 percent to P10.75. Globe Telecom fell 1.8 percent to P840, and Petron lost 2.2 percent to P4.50.

Bargain-hunting in select stocks helped trim the market's losses. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the most actively traded stock, added 0.8 percent to P1,775 on 152,740 shares traded.

All sectoral indicators retreated. Decliners led gainers 99 to six, while 26 stocks were unchanged.

Looking ahead, Aguila said: "There's uncertainty in the market right now given the declaration of a state of emergency. Investors will just have to get a feel of the market for awhile." *AP*



Uniwide sails

IS THIS COMPANY TRULY under the receivership of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the police of the business sector?

I refer to the bankrupt bargain retail chain Uniwide Sales, which was THE most popular store for the bargain hunters until Uniwide sailed into oblivion after the financial crisis of 1997.

From what I hear, seven stores of Uniwide went up for lease. Guess for how much? Well, they went for only P4 million a month. All seven of them—okay!

How in the world can this company pay its debts?

For instance, it owes several banks some P3 billion, among them PNB, which was government-run at that time.

Above all, however, it also owes hundreds of unsecured creditors some P1.5 billion.

These poor guys can never hope to be repaid what Uniwide owes them--not even a single, cross-eyed centavo.

Do the math! At an income of P4 million a month, Uniwide will only be able to pay its debts after about 94 years!

***

AND the poor creditors cannot do anything. Maybe they are afraid. They may get it from this cute administration. Hey, we have a "state of national emergency!"

Uniwide Sales is owned by Jimmy Gaw, who borrowed heavily and speculated in real estate. Is he or is he not involved in that deal on the "bargain" lease?

Well, it seems that the lease was a product of top-secret negotiations. Emerging the lucky winner was a wholesale company called Suysing Commercial.

Look at that—NEGOTIATED lease! For a bankrupt company? Owing billions of pesos?

Creditors were hoping for a "highest bidder" deal for the lease.

Under the "negotiated" deal, you see, even with the longer life expectancy today, they will all be dead before Uniwide can repay them.

***

EMPLOYEES of the state-owned DBP are calling for the resignation of their boss, Vitaliano Nañagas. (Again? Nañagas, if you recall, was the administrator ousted by the employees of SSS.)

Word is that the DBP employees filed cases of graft and corruption against Nañagas before the Ombudsman for his questionable representation expense in 2004.

But in a recent board meeting, in fact, in which Nañagas was absent, his allies took up the cudgels for him. They called for an investigation on how the DBP employees got hold of his claims.

To me, it's like a murder case in which the police investigate the person who discovered the body--instead of the killer.

***

IT'S good though that the COA already checked the claims of Nañagas, such as the thick stack of receipts from a Japanese restaurant called Kimpura.

He only claimed reimbursement for 180 receipts, covering one year, meaning that he had to have gone to the place every other day.

Now explain this: He submitted eight receipts covering a week, meaning he went to Kimpura twice a day. Apparently, the guy eats nothing but Japanese—and only in one particular restaurant. Whether the restaurant owners are his friends is not known.

The documents also showed, according to the DBP employees, that their boss purchased "gifts" in the US and in the Philippines on the same day.

Was he at two places at the same time?

In one trip to the US, he claimed to have bought gifts for World Bank and USAID officials, and treated them to meals and movies and shows.

At least 29 items were listed for reimbursements for gifts, amounting to more than P300,000.

All told, he claimed almost half a million pesos for that one US trip.

One of the documents presented to the Ombudsman to support the case was a claim for reimbursement for gifts to World Bank officials.

The gifts were listed as "women's socks," but the officials happened to be...well, male. You know - as in "men!"

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RP, Indon deal on fisheries extended

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE PHILIPPINES and Indonesia have formally agreed to extend their fisheries cooperation by five more years with the signing of a memorandum of agreement here on Thursday.

The MOA, signed by Agriculture Sec. Domingo Panganiban and Indonesian Fisheries Minister Freddie Numberi, has paved the way for the continuous use of Indonesian waters by fishermen from this city and South Cotabato.

Panganiban said the agreement meant a lot to Filipinos, particularly the fishing sector.

"With an average of total tuna landing in the Philippines of about 400,000 metric tons, the industry is estimated to be valued at about $420 million," Panganiban said.

In this city alone, the fishing industry provides about 100,000 jobs.

Under the agreement, both countries vowed to promote cooperation in the sustainable development and conservation of fish resource in their shared territories.

The government also agreed to enhance mutual consultations with Indonesia, exchange technical know-how, conduct joint research and economic cooperation on agreed areas of fisheries.

Numberi said the specific details of the agreement has yet to be discussed and resolved by members of the Joint Committee headed by senior officials of both countries.

Among the contentious issues that still need to be ironed out is the sharing scheme between the two countries. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nissan recalls X-Trail units

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NISSAN MOTOR PHILIPPINES INC. YESTERday announced the recall of 4,070 units of its X-Trail sport utility vehicle as part of the global recall involving 475,400 vehicles.

Leman Lee, company president and chief executive, explained that the voluntary recall was related to the fuel inlet to the gasoline tank, called the fuel filler tube, which may rust at the tube mounting bracket.

A pinhole may result from the rust formation, which can cause a fuel leak during full refueling, Lee said.

But the official clarified that developing a hole from rusting would take between 10 years and 15 years, depending on humidity and other factors.

"In short, there is no real cause for panic over the short term, since the rust develops (after so many years)," Lee said. "However, Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. (NML) has decided to take a very proactive stand toward the issue by making a recall this early."

The worldwide recall affects markets in Japan, Canada, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia/Oceania, including Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Taiwan and Thailand.

In the Philippines, the recall will affect more than half of the 6,400 X-Trail units sold since the vehicle was introduced in July 2003.

The units covered are those made between July 2003 and November 2004.

According to NMPI senior manager Raymond Tribdino, the company usually assembles completely knocked down kits of X-Trails imported from Japan a month before delivery to buyers.

The official said the recall was expected to slash X-Trail sales-the firm's bestseller—in that, as in any recall, the public becomes wary at first but would soon judge for themselves, based on available information.

Buyers would realize the impact of such a recall and soon sales will be restored to pre-recall levels," Tribdino said.

"The cost of this campaign will run into the millions of pesos, but that is something that Nissan is willing to shoulder completely for the peace of mind of our X-Trail buyers," he added.

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February 25, 2006/ 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Franchise Boom: Now is the Time to Get Started - By: Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. • The Entrepreneur: Know Thyself - By: Lex Ledesma • Talk: Jeff Van Ruyven • Finding Your Opportunity of a Lifetime: Where do Entrepreneurs Get Their Ideas - By: Jay Bernardo • Moving Innovations to Market - By: Maoi Arroyo • The Essentials of a Successful Business Start-up - By: Joel Santos • FORUM: Financing Programs that Work - Moderator: Mau Bolante - Panelists: National Livelihood Support Fund, Personal Bank Loan Providers, ABS-CBN Bayan Microfinance Foundation, Pawnshops, Cooperatives • Seminar Room 1 - International Workshop on Technopreneurship By: Prof. Patrick Chan, Host: DOST • Seminar Room 2 - Franchise Your Businesss: An Option for Growth - By: Philippine Franchise Association • Demystifying the Stock Market - By: Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 24, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	34.5	33	33	307,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59	58	59	1,150,000
China Banking Corp.	635	640	630	630	7,150
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.48	0.48	6,330,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	63	63	62	63	137,100
International Exch. Bank	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	117,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33.5	34	32.5	33.5	900,500
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	7,700
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	6,200
Security Bank Corp.	38.5	38.5	37.5	38	23,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	33	33.5	33	33	36,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3210	3210	3210	3210	60
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2150	2150	2150	2150	250
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.74	0.75	5,070,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45	45	44.5	44.5	2,364,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41.5	40	40.5	1,741,000
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	94,300
Manila Electric Co. B	18.5	18.5	18	18	871,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.3	7,114,000
Petron Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.4	4.5	6,931,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	49,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	20	20	19.75	20	117,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34	35	34	34	482,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.55	26,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.6	1.6	324,000
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	60.5	59.5	60.5	124,000
San Miguel Corp. B	78.5	81	78.5	80	66,600
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.75	1,645,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	700,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	990,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.18	1.2	17,975,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.1	4.1	490,000
CHEMICALS					
Pryce Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,020,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1,700,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.065	1,200,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.007	0.008	74,000,000
Ayala Corp.	327.5	327.5	317.5	322.5	533,140
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	290,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	397,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	7,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.3	2.3	1,404,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	110,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.87	0.87	460,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.62	1.42	1.62	124,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.86	2.2	1.86	2.2	39,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	110,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	49,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.94	2,880,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,182,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.62	1.62	624,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	20,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.6	4.6	1,213,000
Medco Holdings	0.215	0.22	0.2	0.22	600,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	16,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.215	0.215	5,130,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	0.95	0.95	6,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	14,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,000,000
SM Investments Corp.	213	216	208	216	599,640
South China Resources Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	190,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.11	0.115	4,410,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.75	9,056,700
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.92	0.92	3,410,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	7,490,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.52	1.52	5,264,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.64	1.64	23,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	2,250,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	7,280,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.16	1.16	4,846,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	2,200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.32	15,341,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	11,930,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.205	0.205	920,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	79,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.18	1,900,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.9	15,321,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	2,130,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	28,800
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.86	0.88	2,300,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	845	830	840	54,900
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	2,372,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1765	1785	1755	1775	152,740
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	250,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	200,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	15,400,000
Philweb Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.025	315,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2	2	2	2	35,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	138,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	11.25	11.25	10.75	10.75	1,346,700
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4	4	4	4	270,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.62	1.62	4,218,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,800,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.35	3,930,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	70,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.3	7.4	7.2	7.3	2,142,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1.06	0.99	0.99	221,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.14	1.26	1.14	1.16	520,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.3	6.4	6.1	6.2	4,144,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.195	0.205	8,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.245	0.245	16,320,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	166,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.023	112,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.6	5,733,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.8	1.8	1.68	1.7	12,013,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	280,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.3	0.3	300,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.235	0.24	4,480,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.007	160,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	40,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.44	570,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	780,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	40,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.25	11.25	11	11	298,200

Del Monte profit down 53% in Q4

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LTD. announced yesterday a 53-percent drop in its net profit in the fourth quarter last year to $5.6 million from $11.9 million in the same period in 2004.

The drop was attributed to higher costs and expenses that offset the 4-percent increase in last quarter sales last year to $69.2 million, Del Monte said in a report to the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Del Monte, jointly owned by NutriAsia Inc. of the Campos family and San Miguel Corp., said the slight growth in sales in the fourth quarter last year was due to higher sales of processed products in the Philippines and other Asian markets, offsetting weak sales in North America.

Sales in the Philippines grew 11 percent with strong growth in the tomato-based product segment.

Despite higher prices, margins were affected by higher costs, particularly tinplates and energy, which reduced gross profit margin to 21.3 percent from 32.6 percent in the prior year's quarter.

For the full year, Del Monte's total sales, including that of subsidiaries in India and the Philippines, were up 11 percent to $222.4 million.

DISCLOSURES

CHINATRUST (Phils.) Commercial Bank Corp. stockholders as of May 22, 2006, will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the annual stockholders' meeting on June 22, 2:30 p.m. Details to follow.

***

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP. listed on Friday 7,095 additional common shares under the company's Tandem Stock Purchase and Option Plan, and 3,334 additional common shares under its Senior Management Stock Option Plan.

Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

February 24, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.838785	1.000000	51.7700
Japan	Yen	0.007161	0.008537	0.4420
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469804	1.752300	90.7166
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108110	0.128889	6.6726
Switzerland	Franc	0.641077	0.764292	39.5674
Canada	Dollar	0.727670	0.867528	44.9119
Singapore	Dollar	0.516271	0.615498	31.8643
Australia	Dollar	0.620220	0.739426	38.2801
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.225781	2.653576	137.3756
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223682	0.266674	13.8057
Brunel	Dollar	0.514687	0.613610	31.7666
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.021397	0.025510	1.3207
UAE	Dirham	0.228371	0.272264	14.0951
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.192200	61.7202
Argentina	Peso	0.273220	0.325733	16.8632
Brazil	Real	0.392781	0.468274	24.2425
Denmark	Kroner	0.134053	0.159818	8.2738
India	Rupee	0.018909	0.022543	1.1671
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.225905	0.269324	13.9429
Mexico	New Peso	0.080014	0.095393	4.9385
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554202	0.660720	34.2055
Norway	Kroner	0.124461	0.148383	7.6818
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014003	0.016694	0.8642
South Africa	Rand	0.137720	0.164190	8.5001
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.001036	0.0536
Sweden	Kroner	0.106508	0.126979	6.5737
Syria	Pound	0.016158	0.019264	0.9973
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025799	0.030757	1.5923
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000391	0.000466	0.0241

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Altis 1.8 E A/T	100,000	70,409	48,486	38,621	27,560	22,238	19,210
Altis S	100,000	64,468	44,394	35,366	25,237	20,364	17,589
Altis 1.6 E A/T	100,000	63,207	43,527	34,675	24,744	19,966	17,245
Altis 1.6 E M/T	100,000	59,966	41,295	32,899	23,477	18,943	16,361
Altis 1.6 J M/T	100,000	54,835	37,761	30,087	21,470	17,324	14,961
Innova 2.5 G A/T	100,000	85,532	58,900	46,909	33,474	27,010	23,337
Innova 2.0 G A/T	100,000	80,041	55,119	43,900	31,327	25,278	21,838
Innova 2.5 G M/T	100,000	79,681	54,871	43,703	31,186	25,164	21,740
Innova 2.0 G M/T	100,000	75,090	51,709	41,187	29,391	23,715	20,487
Innova 2.5 E M/T	100,000	70,949	48,858	38,917	27,771	22,409	19,358
Innova 2.5 J M/T	100,000	62,937	43,341	34,527	24,638	19,881	17,172
Innova 2.0 J M/T	100,000	58,436	40,241	32,060	22,878	18,460	15,944

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- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or related discipline
- 3+ years experience specializing in IT/Computer – Software
- Required skills:
  Microsoft Visual Basic 6, Microsoft .NET Technology, XML, UML, ASP, VB, HTML, and JAVA is a plus
- Experience in Object Oriented Programming (OOP) and modular design
- Familiarity with Visual Studio, Photoshop, Macromedia, and other web applications.
- Solid understanding of System Analysis and Design (SAD)
- Solid understanding of Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC)
- Familiarity with MSSQL 2000, Oracle, MySQL, and other databases would be an advantage.
- Satisfactory English comprehension and fluency level
- Willing to work in Digos City, Davao del Sur

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

- 3+ years experience with the following qualifications:
- Ability to setup, configure, troubleshoots networking resources
- Provide technical assistance to the staff with regards to PC troubleshooting
- Knowledgeable in any open-source operating system
- Knowledgeable in Windows Client/Server Operating system
- Knowledgeable in TCP/IP, Local Area Network (LAN), WAN (Wide Area Network)
- Experience in routing and switching.
- Knowledgeable in controlling network security and resolves network problems.
- Experience in PC Troubleshooting (Software and Hardware)
- Willing to work in Digos City, Davao del Sur and Japan
- Satisfactory English comprehension and fluency level

WEB DEVELOPER

- 2+ years experience with numerous development methodologies in PHP/ MySQL
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or related discipline
- Strong communication skills written and verbal to explain algorithms, comment code, interact in team or production meetings
- Willing to work in Digos City
- Required Skills:
  HTML, PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, XML, Layout Designing and Stylesheets
- Preferred Skills:
  Actionscript, AJAX, Linux Server, WML, Technical Writing
- Required Language: English
- Preferred Language: Nihonggo

SYSTEM ANALYST

- Proficient in System Analysis and Design
- 3+ years experience in SAD
- 3+ years experience in Programming
- Knowledgeable in Database Management
- Knowledgeable in Network and File Handling
- Experience in conducting end-user training
- Basic understanding in file storage and back-up strategies
- Experience with security group implementation
- Willing to work in Digos City, Davao del Sur and Japan
- Satisfactory English comprehension and fluency level
- Preferably not more than 30 years old

If you are interested, please submit your resumé (with 2"x2" ID Photo)
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MARCELLANA "NINAY" G. DESALES

of Matnog, Sorsogon
Retired Ambassador
Dept. of Foreign Affairs

Has peacefully rest in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord at the age of 72.

Her sister-in-law, **Dr. Luz B. Desales**; the children of her sister **(†) Flotilda Desales-Hilao** and brother **(†) Atty. Socrates G. Desales**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment shall be on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at the Desales Family Cemetery in Matnog, Sorsogon after the 3:00 p.m. Mass.

GONZALO T. GOTAUCO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 23, 2006.

His wife Kitty (†); children **Annette & Harry, Alfred, Robert & Gemma, Lolet & Rey, Elena & Noel, Corky & Richard**; grandchildren **Kitkat, Andrea, Paolo, Ashlee & Alexie, Terrence, Ron Ron, Mark, Roby & Lance, Donna, Allen & Angelo, Jamie & Jeffrey, Kim, Ana & Scott**, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church, St. Joseph Chapel, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.**

Interment will be on **Sunday, February 26, 2006** after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at The Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City.

CLETO DURAN ARNEDO

FORMER GOVERNOR OF SORSOGON

Joined his Creator on February 26, 2006 at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Leovigilda Licup Salvador**; children, in-laws and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Padre Pedro Licup Hall, Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Sorsogon City.

Interment will be at the Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery on February 28, 2006. Right after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral.

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Using satellite data to predict landslides

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHILE MULTINATIONAL search and rescue teams look for survivors buried under mud and rubble in Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard in Southern Leyte, a team of scientists in Japan is hard at work interpreting what their "eye in the sky" is "seeing."

Joel Bandibas, a Filipino researcher based at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Japan, and his team specialize in remote sensing, artificial neural network and geoinformation.

They sift through data provided by the advanced spaceborne thermal emission and reflection radiometer (Aster) satellite.

Raised in Leyte

Interestingly, Bandibas was born in Cebu City but spent his elementary and high school years in Santa Cruz and Sogod, Southern Leyte, an hour away from St. Bernard.

The Aster satellite was able to produce snapshots of Southern Leyte on Feb. 20 and 21. The landslide occurred on Feb. 17.

Data from Aster, Bandibas said, help greatly in mapping areas affected by disasters which can be handy for rapid response of rescuers and relief efforts.

But locating survivors buried under 30 meters of mud and rock is beyond the satellite's capabilities.

"Bringing thermal sensors to the site is far more practical," Bandibas said.

Natural disasters

Aster and Alos (advanced land observation satellite) are Japan's satellites used extensively to map large-scale natural disasters in the world.

The Philippine government this week requested the Japanese government to aim the Aster satellite at specific areas in Southern Leyte.

Pagasa officer-in-charge Graciano Yumul said the Philippines was also requesting Japan to look at the eastern seaboard so the country will have database before the actual La Niña.

Aster data were used during the Quezon landslide, the East Asian tsunami in 2004, and the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005.

Alos carries advanced sensors for environmental monitoring, and was launched by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (Jaxa) last month.

The more important role of the two satellites is their ability to provide reliable data in determining the probability of a landslide in a certain area, Bandibas said.

These satellites also provide "before" and "after" snapshots of a disaster-stricken area.

Bandibas said the satellites can generate three-dimensional maps that indicate changes in geomorphology and vegetation coverage before and after a landslide, and may actually help locate buried structures and other landmarks.

Database from these satellites help researchers generate a more accurate landslide prediction system.

Bandibas said his group might be able to generate a landslide probability map for the Philippines soon.

Ateneo Grade School Math Olympiad

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

TWO WEEKS AGO, THE 4TH Ateneo Grade School Math Olympiad (AMO) was held with around 70 contestants from various schools. For several years Ateneo President Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S. J. and I have offered a problem-solving class for selected college science majors, and after trying their hand at complicated problems, we challenge them to train promising elementary and high schoolers, with the AMO as the annual showcase of what everyone has learned.

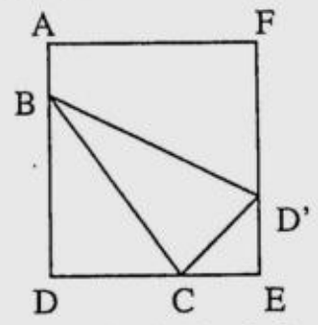
The AMO is based on the International Math Olympiad, the most prestigious math fest in the world. The emphasis is not so much on calculator-like speed, but on the appropriate mindset and perseverance required to reflect on a problem, and the creativity to come up with ingenious and elegant solutions. In the AMO, contestants are given three hours to write in detail their solutions to three complicated problems, which all go beyond standard math.

Grade school problems

The first three questions were given to Grades 5 and 6; the last three to Grade 7. (The middle problem was given to all.)

1. Find the smallest positive integer that consists of the ten digits 0 through 9, each used just once, and is divisible by each of the digits 2 through 9.

2. A 16 cm x 25 cm rectangular piece of paper is folded so that a corner touches the opposite side as shown. The distance AB = 5 cm, FE = 26 cm, DE = 16 cm. Find $(BC)^2$.



3. A shipping clerk has five boxes of different but unknown weights. Unfortunately, all of the boxes weigh less than 100 lb and the only scale available reads only weights over 100 lb. The clerk decides to weigh the boxes in pairs so that each box is weighed with every other box. The weights of all possible pairs are 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, and 121 lb. Determine the weights of the five boxes.

4. Find all triples of positive integers (a, b, c) that simultaneously satisfy each of the following conditions:

i. $a + b = c^3$
ii. $a + b + c = 130$
iii. 19 is a factor of a - b.

Lucky number

5. A number N is called a lucky number if it is the sum of some positive integers, the sum of whose reciprocals is 1. That is, N is lucky if there are positive integers a, b, c, ... (not necessarily distinct) such that N = a + b + c, ... and if 1/a + 1/b + 1/c + ... = 1. For instance, 4 and 11 are lucky numbers since 4 = 2 + 2 and ½ + ½ = 1; 11 + 2 + 3 + 6 and ½ + 1/3 + 1/6 = 1.

a. Show that 24 and 31 are lucky numbers.

b. Show that if N is a lucky number, then so are 2N + 2 and 2N + 9.

There was only one gold medalist: Darwin Ivan Carrasco (Pamplona Elementary School).

Macliing Aydinun (Ateneo Grade School), Carmela Antoinette Lao (St. Jude Catholic School) and Alvin Uy Lim (Grace Christian Grade School) got silver medals, while Miguel Sebastian Santos (Southridge School), Geraldine Baniqued (St. Paul's Pasig), Zhang Zi Xin (Grace Christian), Patrick Puache and Paolo Magabo (Ateneo) got bronze medals.

The winners also received books from Scholastic Inc. and math and science toys from Fundamentals Inc.

We acknowledge the Ateneo Problem Solvers Group for coaching the boys, the Ateneo Math Society for the logistics, and the Ateneo Grade School and High School administration and math faculty for supporting the project wholeheartedly. We look forward to next year's AMO. We believe that with proper training, our youth can hone their skills to the fullest.

Sit up for romance

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

VALENTINE'S DAY IS OVER, but it doesn't mean that romance itself ends for another year. There are birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, New Year's, and even tomorrow. Movies and books usually set up romantic evenings as follows: the lights are dimmed, scented candles are lit and placed everywhere, music plays softly in the background, a bottle of champagne and two glasses stand on a table, roses are in a vase, and rose petals are scattered on the sheets. The idea in such setups is to seduce all the senses.

A McGill University study suggests that once the parties involved are lying down, the rose petals on the bedspread may not multitask, and will be felt but not smelled.

The work was done by Johan Lundström, a postdoctoral fellow under Marilyn Jones-Gotman. Dr. Jones-Gotman is a professor at McGill's Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery and her lab is affiliated with the Montreal Neurological Institute. The paper first appeared in the advanced access section of the Chemical Senses journal's website last Jan. 4.

Body positions

The researchers are not the first to tackle the question of how well one can identify odors from various body positions such as standing, sitting, or lying down. One previous study had people identifying odors while either right side up or upside down, which is generally unlikely for most people to do. Another study employed a different set of body positions and six participants. Since so few people were involved, their data may have skewed the results.

The McGill study had 36 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 35, half of whom were women. The test was fairly straightforward. The researchers first laced several felt tip pens with serial dilutions of phenyl ethyl alcohol (PEA), better known as rose odor, mixed with odorless propylene glycol. Other pens were only laced with propylene glycol.

The pens, also known as "Sniffin' Sticks," were selected because they could be easily sniffed whether the participant was sitting up or lying down. If a test tube was used, the results might be affected.

Participants were blindfolded and asked to sniff the pens while lying down. They sniffed two odorless pens and then one scented pen, starting from the lowest dilution, working up to the strongest odor.

Once each participant identified two scented pens in a row, the researchers worked backward down the dilution scale to have them identify the lowest dilution scented pen they could smell and then worked back up the dilutions to identify the strongest odor. After several passes, they established a threshold for each participant. The volunteers then had several minutes to rest and clear their sinuses of the rose odor before repeating the experiment while sitting up.

Brain association

The results showed that 63 percent of the participants had trouble identifying odors while lying down. Unsurprisingly, the participants had a wider threshold of odor sensitivity sitting up than they did lying down.

Why there is a difference between the results when one lies down as opposed to standing up is still unknown.

In a press statement, Dr. Jones-Gotman speculated that the brain may associate lying down with preparing for sleep and therefore the senses aren't as aware as they might be otherwise.

The study also suggests that neuroimaging studies that involve MRIs or PETs may have slightly different results if the participants could be monitored sitting up rather than lying down, which is what the equipment requires them to do.

The good news is that future romantic encounters need not be too expensive: silk rose petals may be more expensive at first than the real thing, but they are reusable.

ASK THE DENTIST
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Bitter taste

MY DENTIST STARTED MY rootcanal but it was not finished due to lack of time and I had to go back abroad. Now I feel slight pain and experience a bitter taste especially in the morning. Can you recommend medication until I can make another trip back to the Philippines?—Reynald M.

The slight pain and bitter taste indicate a possible pus infection of your tooth. Antibiotics are recommended to help control infections. As for treatment and cure, the source will have to be treated. It could be coming from the tooth or the gum around the tooth. You'll have to see a dentist soon if you want the infection treated. Waiting until your next vacation might be risky.

Menopause drug may have positive effect on heart

By Charles E. Buban

A DRUG USED TO PREVENT AND treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women was recently found to have a favorable effect on the heart.

According to Lotis Calinawan of the drug manufacturer Eli Lilly, a study found that women who have increased risk for cardiovascular events and who took the drug raloxifene (Evista) for four years had a 40 percent reduction in coronary and cerebrovascular events combined, compared to those who took placebo.

The Multiple Outcomes of Raloxifene Evaluation (MORE) study, however, found that overall, women who took raloxifene were no more likely to have a cardiovascular event than those taking placebo.

Calinawan said the additional benefits of raloxifene on the heart could only be conclusively proven in a large-scale, controlled clinical trial, which is why the Raloxifene Use for The Heart (RUTH) study was initiated in 1998.

This study involves more than 10,000 postmenopausal women with coronary heart disease or with risk factors for coronary artery disease. Results of the study would not be available for several years yet.

Female sex hormones

Raloxifene was originally designed to selectively act as an estrogen on the bones, but not on breast tissue or the uterus where estrogen can increase the risk of cancer for postmenopausal women.

Estrogen—the female sex hormones—helps protect women against cardiovascular diseases during their child-bearing years.

Experts believe these sex hormones shield the younger women's hearts to some degree by boosting levels of high density lipoprotein, the "good cholesterol," and keeping levels of low density lipoprotein, the "bad cholesterol."

But the protection is temporary as the incidence of cardiovascular diseases, including the thickening of the arteries (atherosclerosis) that serve the heart and limbs, high blood pressure, angina or stroke increases substantially following menopause, when a woman's estrogen levels begin to taper off.

Hormone therapy

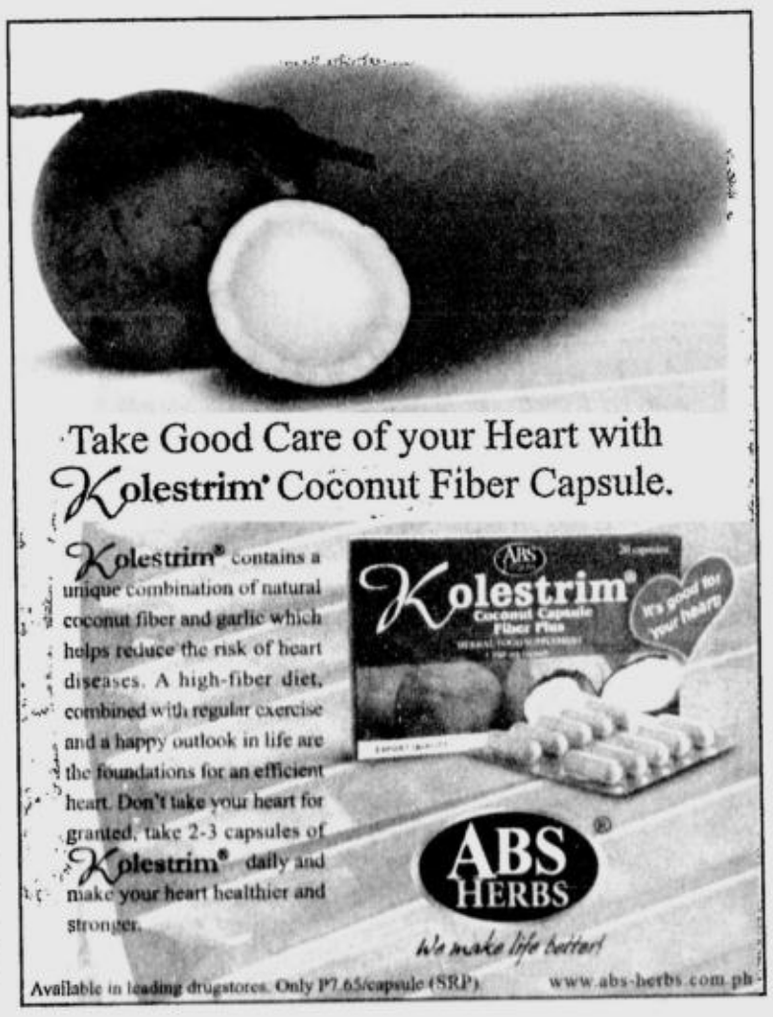
This is why women who experience moderate to severe symptoms of menopause are often prescribed with hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

HRT was believed to be an effective treatment against the long-term effects of having low levels of estrogen, which include heart disease and osteoporosis, as well as other menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes, mood swings and sleep disorders.

But in 2002, a landmark study found that it raised the risk of heart attack and stroke.

"As a result, doctors no longer prescribe the combination of estrogen and progestin to prevent chronic disease but instead use HRT only for short-term relief from menopausal symptoms," said Calinawan.

The Women's Health Initiative, a medical research initiated in 1991 by the US National Institutes of Health, found that even though HRT lowered women's risk for bone fractures and colorectal cancer, those who took it for five or more years have increased their risk for heart disease, stroke, blood clots and breast cancer.



BUSINESS

Oil firm rolls back gas, diesel pump prices

Other companies expected to follow suit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM UNIOIL Philippines Petroleum yesterday announced it had cut its pump prices of gasoline by P1 and of diesel by 50 centavos a liter to reflect the prevailing world prices.

Unioil officials said the price cut took effect at 8 a.m. Friday.

Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said his department was expecting other oil firms to follow suit. Officials of the other oil companies, however, said there was no such plan yet.

Lotilla said world oil prices eased this month after the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' unanimous decision last Jan. 31 to maintain production in the second quarter.

"In fact, international prices are going down, an indication that would somehow provide some relief to oil importing countries like the Philippines," he said.

The energy chief said the DOE's monitoring showed that Dubai crude prices dropped by 76 cents to an average of $57.68 a barrel in February from an average of $58.44 in January.

At the same time, prices of Mean of Platts Singapore-based unleaded gasoline fell by $2.01 to an average of $64.78 a barrel average in February from $66.79 in January.

MOPS-based diesel prices dropped by $2.22 to an average of $70.92 a barrel in February from $73.14 per barrel average in the previous month.

"Oil prices have increased in the last few months due to several factors such as supply disruptions in Nigeria and concerns about Iran's nuclear project," Lotilla said.

"While the industry is deregulated, the DOE has been constantly appealing to oil companies to absorb more costs, and effect increases in prices only if and when absolutely necessary," he added.

This resulted in smaller though more frequent adjustments in lieu of one-time huge increases corresponding to the upswing in international prices, he said.

In another development, Lotilla said he had instructed all energy agencies to ensure the security of energy installations and fuel supply to avoid any disruptions in the delivery of vital services to the public following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

Gov't seen offering residual stake in PNB to Tan group

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT MAY EXERCISE ITS option to sell the state's remaining 12.5 percent stake in Philippine National Bank, valued at about P3.5 billion, to the Lucio Tan group after efforts to sell the shares to small local investors failed.

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. yesterday said the subscription to the government's offering of 20.7 million shares to retail investors was "minimal." The shares were offered from Dec. 13 last year until Feb. 15.

In a statement, PDIC said the government had an alternative exit mechanism, which is to exercise the option to sell to the Lucio Tan Group its remaining shares by August 2007 at P48.80 per share. This was based on the par value of P40 per share before the joint bidding of the government's and the Lucio Tan group's stakes in the bank last year, plus a 10-percent interest per annum.

"We will exercise our put option unless someone else offers a better price," PDIC president Ric Tan told reporters yesterday.

Tan said that if the bank could post strong profits this year, there might be other investors willing to pay a better price for the government's residual stake.

PDIC, the state agency in charge with the bank's privatization, had expected the lukewarm response of the market to the retail offering due to the declining share price of PNB during the offer period.

Investors apparently decided not to buy the PNB shares when they found out that the government's asking price was much higher than the market price.

PDIC controls 9.48- percent stake or 54.36 million shares while the national government directly owns 3.05 percent of the bank or 17.45 million shares.

Although the government had anticipated the poor market interest in the retail offering, it had to undertake the share offer to small retail investors after selling 72.14 percent of its stake in PNB to the Lucio Tan group last August 2005 pursuant to Republic Acts 7181, 7661 and 7886 (Privatization Laws).

URC plans to sell stake in sister firm

By DaximL.Lucas

ENCOURAGED BY THE SUCCESS OF ITS RECent public offering, Universal Robina Corp. is considering selling its stake in sister firm Robinsons Land Corp. to allow the food and beverage firm to focus on its growing core business.

Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, URC president Lance Gokongwei said the plan also jibed with Robinsons Land's plan to increase the number of shares readily available at any period—the so-called "free float"—to stock market investors.

"The board [of URC] is reviving plans [of selling the Robinsons Land stake] because of [the market's] warm reception to URC," he said.

URC presently holds a 19-percent stake in Robinsons Land. Both firms are owned by JG Summit Holdings Inc., the holding firm of the Gokongwei family. The shares of all three firms are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Earlier this month, the Gokongwei-controlled food company raised P10.8 billion by selling 730 million shares—a combination of newly-issued stocks and old shares from existing shareholders—at P17 per share.

Another 95 million shares were subsequently made available to investors as the initial tranche was oversubscribed.

Gokongwei said the plan for URC to divest its stake in Robinsons Land would be executed "in the next 12 months."

"But there's no firm date yet," he said.

The proceeds to be raised from the divestment plan would be used to retire URC's longer-term bonds, after its short-term debts were paid off with the proceeds of the company's share sale earlier this month.

Gokongwei, who also heads Robinsons Land, earlier said the company would increase its free float to 40 percent from only 7 percent at present as part of a broader plan among the companies in the group to increase their profile among institutional investors.

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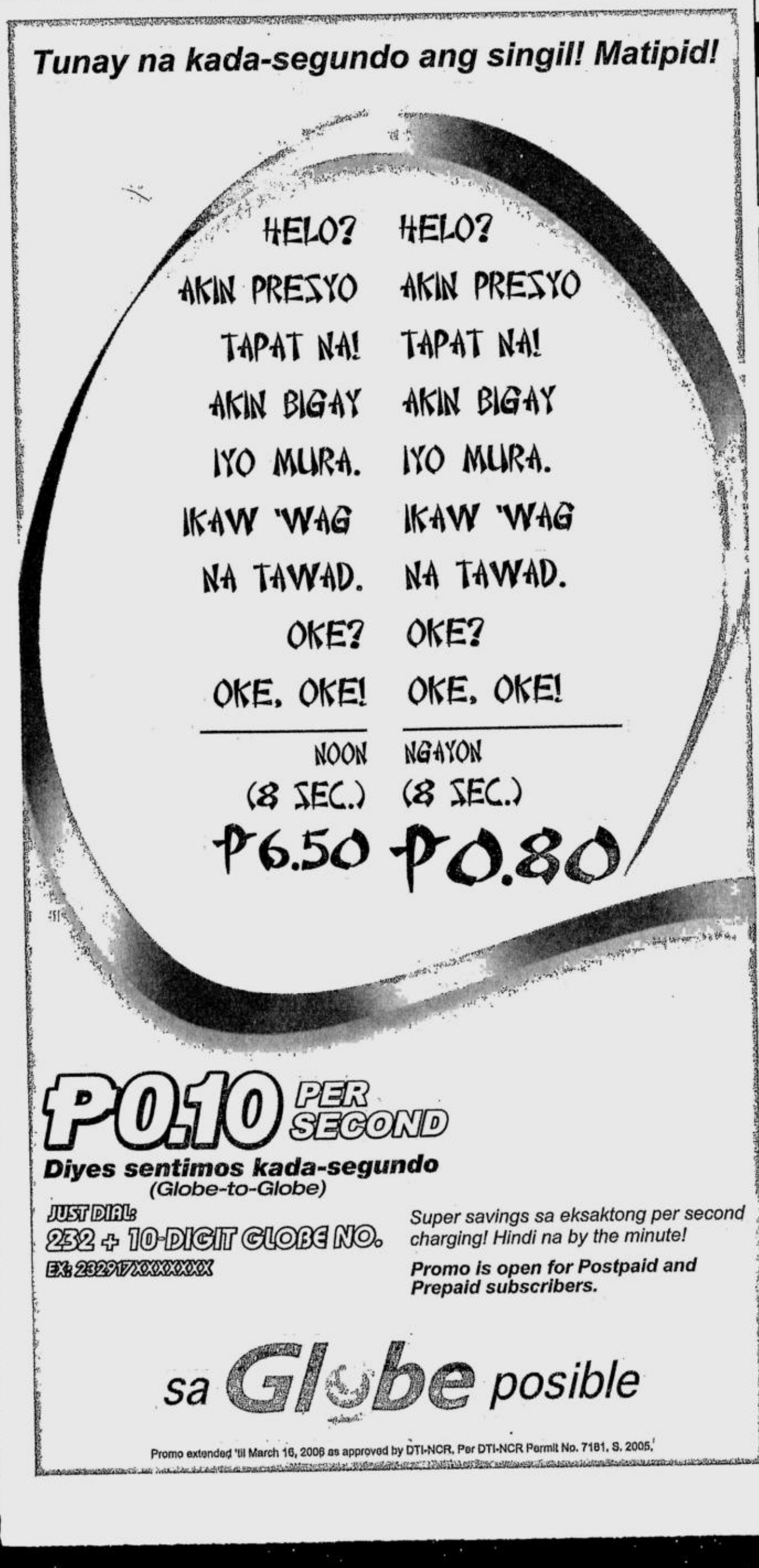

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INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested and qualified service providers to undertake the **Pest Management Program** of MWSI for a period of one (1) year.

Complete set of documents can be secured beginning February 27, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable pre-qualification fee in the amount of P1,000.00. **A Pre-bid Conference will be held on March 3, 2006, 10:00AM at the MWSI Corporate Logistics Conference Room.** All interested service providers are required to attend the Pre-bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on March 8, 2006 at 5:00PM.

MWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposals, waive any formality or defect therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.

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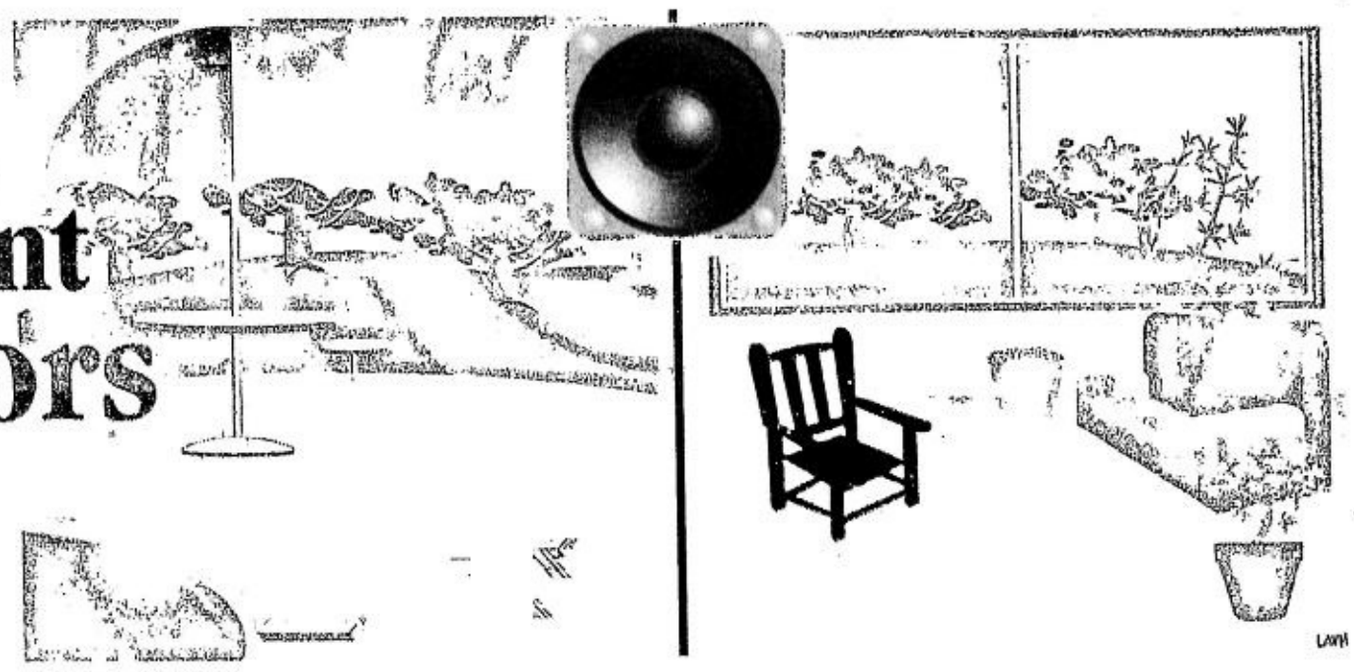
PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Expanding audio entertainment indoors, outdoors



By Charles E. Buban

THERE WAS A TIME when architects and home planners skip outdoor audio system in the homes they design. For them installing these speakers were hardly worth the effort as they are vulnerable to the elements and that fact that outdoor sound is difficult—one needs many times the power to achieve the same apparent sound level as one would inside.

"But some of the best time at home is spent just outside home—on the patio, by the pool or just in the garden. Having an outdoor audio system will definitely enhance one's outdoor relaxation or perking up outdoor gatherings or parties," said Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing Corp. (customer_service@eleksis.com), exclusive distributor of Bose entertainment systems in the country.

However, So admits that while the outdoors may be the perfect setting for music, it is hardly the best environment for speakers.

Consistent delivery

"An outdoor speaker must consistently deliver the quality of sound one would expect from a speaker in homes. This is where Bose outdoor systems have an advantage as each speaker model is engineered and tested to withstand some of the worst that nature can dish out," said So.

To prove the worthiness of its Bose outdoor products, So informed that the company was recently chosen by SM to equip its biggest mall with Bose's outdoor audio products.

"If there is a place where we can highlight our technology and the worthiness of our speakers, the SM Mall of Asia, the biggest in the region and third in the world, is the right place for demonstration," said So.

400-hectare mall

Some 400 Bose Model 16 ceiling speakers will be installed in the common areas of this 400-hectare mall.

These high-performance, ceiling-mounted loudspeakers are engineered for music and speech reproduction in a wide range of business applications including retail, restaurant and hospitality operations.

These speakers are further complemented with over 200 wall-mounted Bose Model 32SE loud speakers that will be installed in the outside perimeters of the mall's four main buildings.

"We will also install 100 Bose FreeSpace 360 garden speakers in pocket gardens surrounding the entire mall. As one may notice, we will be able to show our clients the different settings wherein a Bose outdoor audio system can be placed," said So.

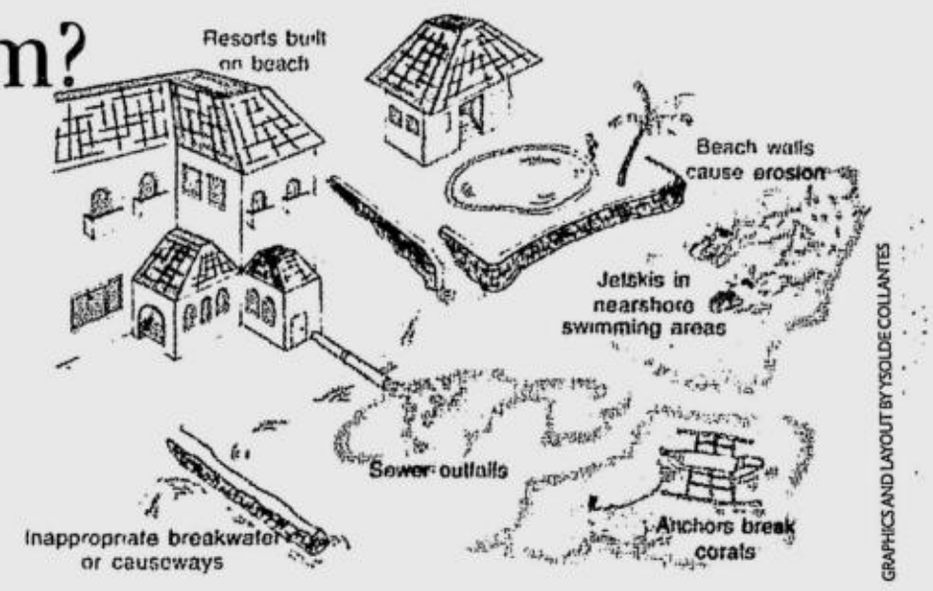
Environmental

So added that Bose audio systems are environmental, meaning, while they are designed to provide high quality sound, they can be used in harsh outdoor environments.

"Bose engineers rigorously test these speakers by recreating extreme environmental conditions including rain, heat, ice and even corrosive salt and fog to assure long-lasting performance. Thus, these outdoor speakers can be placed practically anywhere," he said.

He added that some of these outdoor speaker models can be connected to the Bose Lifestyle system so that the music heard indoors can also be enjoyed outside.

What is sustainable coastal tourism?



GRAPHICS AND LAYOUT BY YSOLDE COLLANTES

COASTAL resorts are often plagued by negative environmental impacts caused by tourism. Some of these problems are badly designed and located breakwaters; wastewater flushed directly into the sea; and beach walls that cause sand erosion.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

MENTION COASTAL TOURISM IN THE country and instantly what comes to mind are Boracay, Palawan, La Union, Batangas, Moalboal, Camiguin and so many other coastal resorts. There are many countless resorts in fact, that it's impossible to name them all. With over 18,000 kilometers of coastline on more than 7,000 islands this is hardly surprising.

Unlike some landlocked countries with no direct access to the ocean, the Philippines is blessed in the sense that one is never too far from any coastline or coastal resort. This accessibility, which is most ideal and convenient for many of us, has also prompted the influx of many visitors. Although it has been economically advantageous to the country, this has also brought about environmental and social problems.

Some of these problems range from simple visual pollution caused by billboards and commercial signs that block or blot natural scenic spots to more complex problems like sand erosion, poor coastal water quality and solid waste being dumped on beaches. Many of the problems are brought about by poor planning and development.

Boracay's problems

Through the years, many have been indifferent to these coastal problems until 1997 when Boracay was declared unsafe for bathing. This shocked tourists and developers as Boracay was at one time considered as the world's most beautiful beach.

The contamination of Boracay was mainly due to untreated wastewater that seeped into the aquifer or flushed into the sea.

Today the government is working on a water system that includes sourcing water from the mainland and a sewage treatment plant.

Highly competitive business

The sad state of development of some of our coastal resorts comes at a crucial time when coastal tourism is becoming a highly competitive business as many countries vie for the attention of visitors bringing precious foreign revenue.

Today, many of these competing countries, stress the importance of sustainable tourism development, being a part of the largest and fast growing activity worldwide, which is international tourism.

Sustainable tourism dev't

Sustainable tourism development means tourism that is well planned, developed and managed to reduce its impact on the environment. It stresses that economic growth is reconcilable with the need to preserve the environment.

Sustainable tourism development means using, conserving and enhancing the resources of a place to allow the ecological processes to be maintained and the quality of life today and in the future is increased.

It was in 1992 when the United Nations defined sustainable development, which means "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Design considerations

The following are some important design considerations for coastal resorts:

• **Green site development.** For site planning, buildings should not be located along sites that are altered by cutting and filling. This means flattening elevated portions and filling up lower portions of a site. Development costs can be reduced when the existing features of a site are considered and retained.

Investment and maintenance costs can also be reduced if existing vegetation is retained.

• **Shoreline setbacks.** Dwellings and other tourist facilities should be built away from the shore. Many coastal resorts do not follow this basic rule in development. When this rule is not followed, waters are contaminated with surface runoff and structures are exposed to wave and storm damage.

Different countries have different rules regarding setbacks for coastal resorts. For instance, in Indonesia a 100-meter shoreline setback is required from the waterline.

For the Philippines, the Department of Tourism has set a minimum setback of 30 meters from the seaward edge of natural vegetation.

This setback has several advantages. The space between the developed area and the beach can be landscaped as an attractive open space to enhance and complement the view of the sea. It can also serve as a multipurpose area for small gatherings.

• **Water supply.** Water is a crucial element in coastal resorts. It is important to determine if water is available in the area and whether it can fill the needs of the resort. Space must also be provided for the treatment of wastewater.

• **Building height.** For coastal resorts, building height, which is measured from the ground to the top of the roof, is limited to the height of the surrounding vegetation. For the Philippines and other countries in the region, the height of the coconut tree is used as the height measurement.

• **Cultural and historical sites.** Green design considerations must give due importance to existing cultural, historical and scenic areas in coastal resorts. Some communities are offended when dwellings are built near sacred sites, but with proper planning, these sites can be protected and preserved.

• **Green building design.** Dwellings should maximize the use of daylight and natural ventilation. Although some guests require air-conditioning for their rooms, if the guest rooms are passively designed and comfortable, they will not be dependent on the mechanical cooling system. Providing adequate roof insulation can also help cut down heat gain that may enter the rooms.

• **Hi-tech facilities.** A very effective way to minimize the impact of dwellings along coastal resorts is by using renewable energies such as solar and wind power. By resorting to these systems, coastal resorts can be self-sufficient in their energy needs, especially those in remote areas not connected to the electric grid.

• **Beach erosion.** For coastal resorts, one of the least understood hazards is beach erosion. One common way that developers use to solve the problem is by constructing concrete seawalls or sheet piling. This system is not effective because it increases the reflective energy generated at the base of the seawall, thus scouring the sand. Eventually the wall will collapse.

To prevent beach erosion a close analysis of the site must be made before any work is done. Next, a setback must be established before work starts. Avoid mining sand from the nearby sandbars. After a storm has altered the beach, let the normal beach cycle return the sand.

• **Success factors.** The success of coastal resorts hinges upon site selection and how the property is used. That is the only path leading to sustainable tourism.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

The Mezza Residences: High-rise living at its best

FROM THE COUNTRY'S MOST RESPECTED names in retailing and mall development comes a project that will soon be a by-word in condominium living—the Mezza Residences.

Situated at Aurora Boulevard corner Araneta and Guirayan Streets in the heart of Quezon City, the impressive Mezza Residences has four, 38-story residential towers. Offering one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom and suite units with introductory prices ranging from one to five million, Mezza Residences is suited for young professionals yearning for their first taste of independence or starting-out families seeking a place to call home.

Metropolis living

"Mezza Residences is metropolis living at its most convenient," shares Julie Jalandoni, assistant vice president for sales and marketing of SM Development Corp. "Everything one can ever need is right here, thus saving on gas, energy and precious time. We really had the lifestyle of today's urbanites in mind in developing this project—addressing as many of their living requirements."

True to its promise of convenience, SMDC will also be constructing a bridge that connects to SM Centerpoint for easy and hassle-free access. "Residents need not cross the street to get to the SM mall," Jalandoni adds."

Each tower has three high-speed elevators and three parking levels. A total of 810 covered and open parking slots are available. There is a main lobby in each tower and a welcome lobby on each floor as well.

An individual laundry drying area for each unit and a centralized garbage collection and disposal system are provided for added convenience. As for the living spaces, all units are constructed with high ceilings and all have picture windows. Also, the two- and three-bedroom units have bay windows, while select units have balconies for a relaxing area with a breathtaking view of the metropolis.

Developed by SM Development Corp. together with land owner Banco de Oro, Mezza Residences allows you to enjoy a wide variety of activities all under one roof. Cafés, service and retail establishments are conveniently located at the Podium at the ground and second level.

"Everyone can go home and do all their shopping right here. Young urbanites can dine out and have a good time with their friends," says Jalandoni. "Mezza truly finds its hallmark on convenience. But more than just that, SMDC puts this together in a great package with well-planned floor areas and generous open spaces."

Relaxing mind, spirit

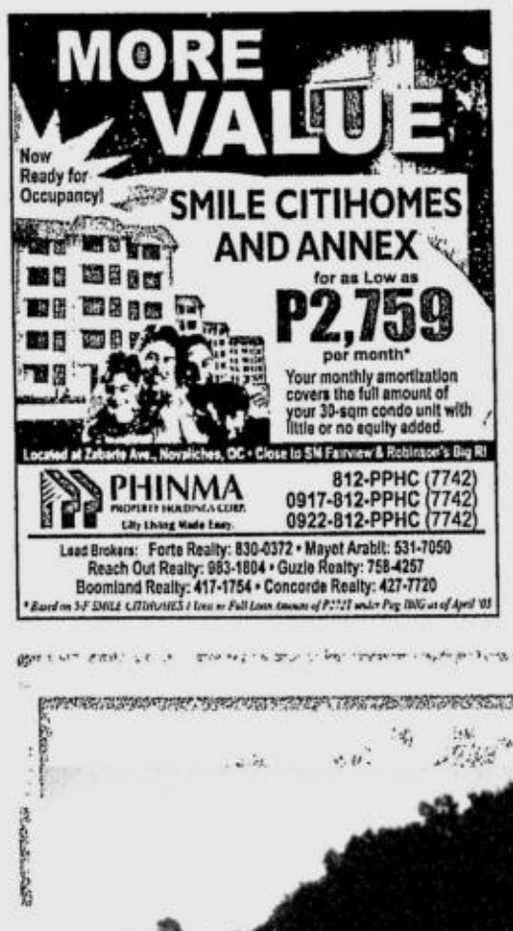
Mezza Residences takes pride in its lush greens. Unique to this project is its sprawling 1,000-square-meter lawn—an inviting place where families can have a picnic, play catch with the kids, or take an afternoon nap.

Giving importance to healthy living, a Zen-inspired garden with a meditation area and a reflexology path relaxes the mind and spirit of the weariest urban dweller. Kids can bask under the sun in the kiddie pool while adults can stay fit by lapping the 25-meter lap pool.

Here at Mezza Residences, it's all about living the city life to the fullest.

Model units are available for viewing at the SM City Sta. Mesa.

MEZZA is designed at the heart of Metro Manila



Lakeshore Subdivision to be issued a CDO

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF Central Country Estate Inc., the developer of Lakeshore Subdivision located on the North Expressway in Mexico, Pampanga, headed by its president, architect Nestor Mangio, is facing criminal and administrative investigation initiated by the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and the Department of Environment and National Resources.

The records of the case revealed that sometime in November 2004, respondent Central Country Estate Inc. was already selling and transferring the title and ownership of more than 1,000 subdivision lots in its proposed 48-hectare property located in Barangay San Rafael, Mexico, Pampanga, even without a DAR conversion order which is a patent violation of Article VII, Section 34 of Republic Act 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1998.

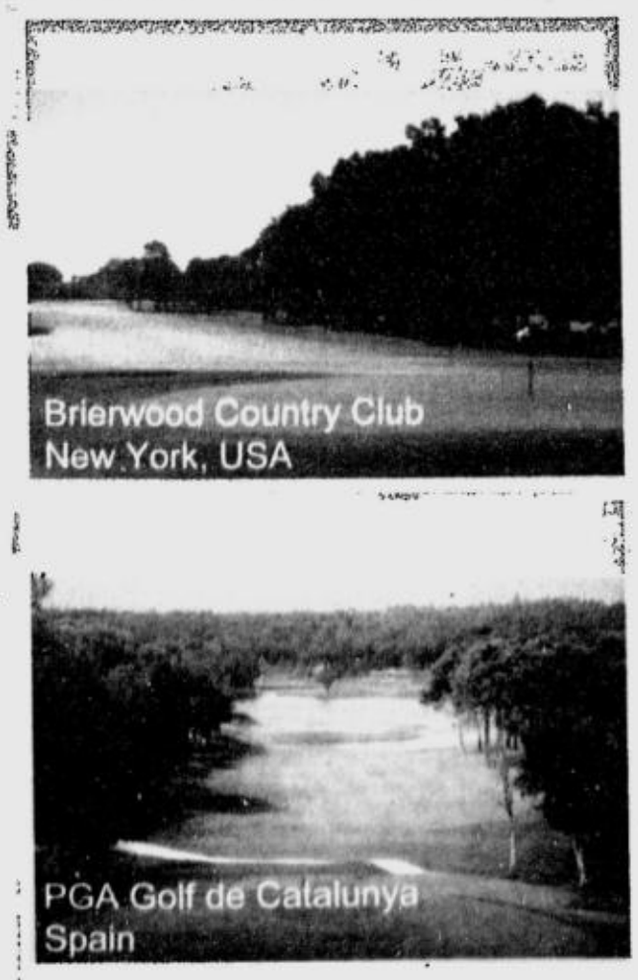
Transfer of ownership

Secondly, the bulk of the property is owned and registered in the name of farmer-beneficiaries because the Department of Agrarian Reform issued titles and ownership of the land to the tenants/farmers through the Certificate of Land Operation (CLOA) and respondent Nestor Mangio caused the transfer of the ownership of the land in the name of their corporation even though the 10 years prohibitory period has not yet expired, a criminal and illegal act punishable up to six years imprisonment under the CARP Law.

Initial investigation also revealed that Central Country Estate board of directors sold the proposed subdivision project even without a License to Sell from the HLURB, a flagrant violation of Presidential Decree 957, likewise a criminal act punishable up to 10 years imprisonment.

Additionally, respondent Nestor Mangio failed to secure a development permit from the office of the municipal mayor of Mexico, Pampanga, and an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR. A Cease and Desist Order (CDO) is poised to be slapped against the further development of Lakeshore Subdivision by the DAR and the HLURB.

Lot buyers of the proposed subdivision project are expected to file a criminal complaint against Nestor Mangio and the board of directors of Central Country Estate for estafa.



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Europe's seven clubs include the One&Only Le Touessrok Golf Coure in Mauritius and the Golf & Country Club Fleesensee in Germany. Frequent visitors to North America can play in 16 golf clubs with their relatives and friends. These include the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco and The Fox Valley Club in New York.

The South Forbes Golf Club, designed by the International Management Group (IMG), features a world-class, 18-hole golf course. Wise investors get free membership to the South Forbes Golf Club with every lot purchase at the charming South Forbes Villas, the resort-inspired Bali Mansions, and the tranquil Tokyo Mansions.

The free golf membership is also available for investors who purchase a unit at two lifestyle condominium projects: The Esplanade and Golf View Terraces.

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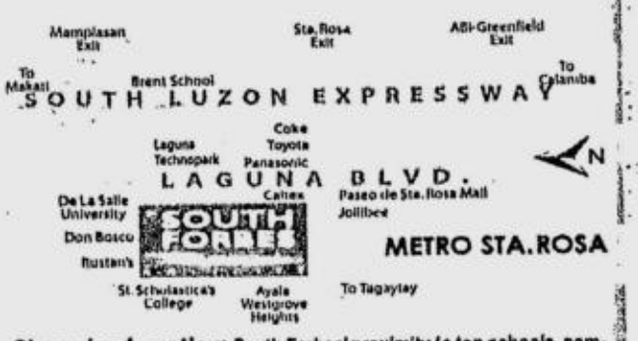

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Minimalism, color, lighting provide keys to maximizing condo space

CONDOMINIUM LIVING HAS LONG been the choice of both the young and single working professionals whose search for a quintessential abode puts premium on how well it can provide the modern conveniences they crave for and how fit it is to accommodate their carefree lifestyle as well.

Now, their residential preference still stays but with a change in status, they are demanding something more—that their space include their families without giving up the comforts that they have come to enjoy in the place they will call home. For condo living, according to DMCI Homes, is lately attracting the young couple types who are often with a kid or two and, therefore, have different sets of priorities and needs.

For most condo dwellers, converting a 42-square-meter floor area into a comfortable living space for a family of three to four is quite a challenge. But for the DMCI Homes' pool of planners, architects and designers, it is a problem that can easily go away by simply applying three basic interior-design techniques. These are color harmony, minimalism and proper lighting.

These techniques find embodiment in a two-bedroom, 42-sq-m condo unit of Mayfield Park Residences, a resort-residential development by DMCI Homes in Pasig City.

DMCI Homes inhouse interior designer Haidee Santos carefully picked only functional pieces to make an illusion of a bigger space for the two-bedroom unit.

Colors enhance space

DMCI Homes is advising a first-time condo occupant to pick a neutral color for his/her unit and apply the same color in varying shades in the different areas of his/her abode. A color's strongest shade must be applied in the accent walls, preferably in the living room; shades in varying lightness from the same color will do well in the rest of the unit's areas.

For baseboards and ceilings, however, a darker shade is preferred to draw the eye on the walls instead to create an optical illusion of a wider space.

This painting job is very much evident in a Mayfield Park Residences' unit. The walls are painted cream and the baseboards are done in tan. The same color scheme is followed in the bedrooms.

Minimalism is key

The right furniture also makes the big difference between clutter and order in one's unit. Choose furniture that is both decorative and functional so you will have need for only fewer items and save on much needed space, DMCI Homes' experts advise.

In the combined living and dining area of a Mayfield Park's unit, a four-seater table that complements the subdued colors of the accent pieces is used, thus providing continuity of the visual character that begins in the living area.

In the bedrooms, bedside tables that double as a study table and dresser fit perfectly as well as built-in cabinets with multilayered drawers and shelves.

At Mayfield Park, it also helps that a separate storage area is provided for every unit at the roof deck of each building. In this area, all other seasonal decors that may be recycled again are stored and don't have to compete for space inside the living quarters.

Decors and major pieces of furniture inside a Mayfield Park unit are handled by Elegance in Wood.

Lighting is everything

When applied in the master's bedroom, yellow lighting from bedside lamps give off a warm glow that turns the overall mood at the area from bland to romantic and dreamy.

And collectively in the living and dining area, a few pin lights and floor lamps may be alternately used during rare occasions where a little drama is called for such as entertaining guests.

Mayfield Park Residences' model units answer to the yuppie's special need for a flexible and comfortable space that can accommodate his family without straining his carefree lifestyle.

For site-tripping and other inquiries, call DMCI Homes at 888-3333 or visit its website at www.dmci-homes.com.

MAYFIELD Park clubhouse, Daroma and Asiana buildings overlooking the swimming pool.

HOMESTARTER BOND AS INVESTMENT OFFER
Ayala Land president Jim Ayala presents the unique features of Ayala Land's pioneering initiative, the Ayala Land Homestarter Bond, during a recent press conference. Flanking him are Ayala Land SVP and head of corporate sales and marketing group Rex A. Mendoza (right) and chief finance officer Jimmy Ysmael. The Homestarter Bond is an investment offer for the middle-range sector and fund-builder for down payment of homes offered by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries Community Innovations and Avida (formerly LPHI). The BPI Capital Corp. is the designated issue manager of the bond which involves monthly investments of P5,000 to P25,000 for three years with a 5 percent noncompounding interest a year. Those interested may visit any BPI branch or call 845-5695 to 98. The offer period ends on Feb. 28 and issue date is March 2.

Gorayeb new deputy president of Asean housing, planning body

THE ASEAN ASSOCIATION FOR PLANNING and Housing (AAPH) recently elected its new set of officers led by Datuk Eddy Chen Lok Loi as president during its 13th membership meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Elected deputy president was Charlie V. Gorayeb, an active individual AAPH member and AAPH vice president for the Philippines for almost eight years now. He is a former president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba). Chen Lok Loi represents the Real Estate and Housing Developers Association of Malaysia, an institutional member of the AAPH Governing Council.

The AAPH general membership is composed of individuals, institutional and honorary members from Negara Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Gorayeb is the chair and chief executive officer of Goram Development Corp., Concrete Ventures Group Inc., Dolores Industrial Park Corp., Alta-Agri Corp. and Red Sea Construction and Realty Corp. He is at present the honorary consul general of the Republic of Djibouti.

Other officers

The new secretary general is T. Mahesan, individual Malaysia member, while the treasurer is Tuan Hj Mohamad Nazri Jaafar representing the Malaysian Institute of Planners. Vice presidents for member-countries were also elected.

Over the years, the AAPH has organized activities in line with objectives of founding members. Thus its capabilities in member-countries have been strengthened to ensure that it will continue to be relevant and responsive to international community's changing needs and requirements. The AAPH has successfully organized 13 biennial conventions, seminars, symposiums, workshops, inter-country dialogues, study tours/visits and social events.

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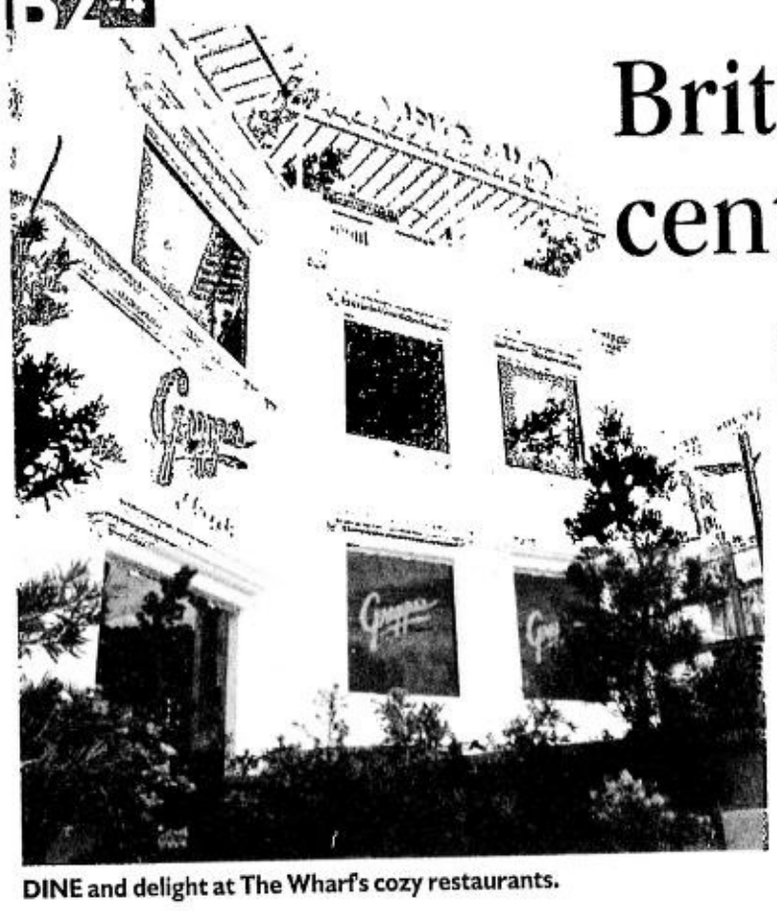
Brittany Bay: The new urban center south of Manila



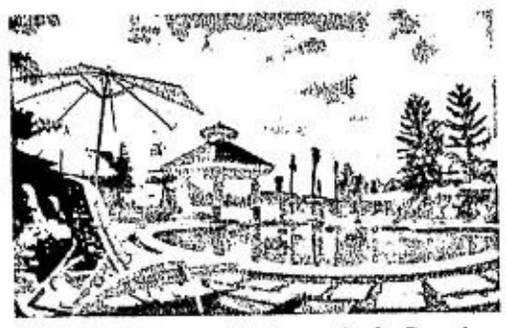
DINE and delight at The Wharf's cozy restaurants.

A PASSION FOR DETAILS WILL ALWAYS BE the driving force behind building a community. More than just creating a row of houses, it takes a great amount of foresight to bring to life a harmonious master plan that could meet the residents' present requirements while providing room for growth in the future.

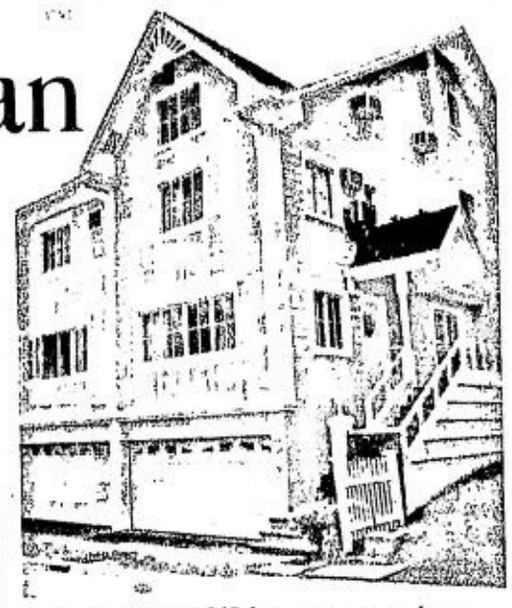
This passion for details has been at the heart of Brittany Corp. in all of its pursuits. In conceptualizing Brittany Bay, however, the maverick real estate developer claims supremacy in creating that most unique, high-end property in the country's capital. More than just a master-planned community, the Brittany Bay development is now acknowledged as one of the most popular urban centers south of Manila.

A very interesting challenge

"We have always been proud to say that Brittany Corp. builds communities. Much of our success lies in thinking outside of the box and providing creative solutions to what we prefer to call challenges rather than problems. Brittany Bay has been a very interesting challenge for us because we wanted our various communities to have a sense of synergy. The result is an urban center that truly endeavors to provide a better lifestyle for its residents," said Brittany Corp. president Jing Serrano.



BRITTANY Corp. adds fun to the La Posada community with the La Posada pool.



SAN FRANCISCO'S famous postcard row comes alive with the Victorianne only at La Posada.

Within this unique enclave located 20 minutes away from the central business district of Makati is an exclusive neighborhood that provides for the various needs of today's demanding lifestyles. This 50-hectare property plays host to different residential developments that promote a higher quality of life with all the conveniences that modern living entails.

Unique communities

Brittany Bay is a well-crafted urban center that integrates various unique communities which include: La Posada, a single-detached home and lot with picturesque bay windows and porches; Victorianne Row, homes reminiscent of San Francisco's Postcard Row; Presidio, low- and mid-rise condos offering a spectacular view of both Laguna de Bay and Sierra Madre; and Viera, a complex of mid-rise condos with commercial establishments on the first two stories.

"While the overall theme—San Francisco's architecture and lifestyle—ties the different properties together, the uniqueness of each one is unmistakable. The Victorianne Row, for instance, is perfect for couples who are just beginning a family. La Posada, on the other hand, is more spacious and can house larger families to provide greater privacy for its members. Finally, Viera is perfect either for singles with a very active lifestyle or for balikbayans in need of a place to stay instead of repeatedly infringing on their relatives' goodwill," Serrano explained.

"While it takes passion to create a community, it takes devotion to the clients to develop an urban center," said Serrano. "Brittany Bay is a testament of Brittany Corp.'s devotion to the Filipino people. To provide a higher quality of living for our people is the reason we exist. And Brittany Bay is a proof that we are willing to do whatever it takes to continue turning that vision into a reality."

For property preview, call 850-6986 or 850-2868 or click www.brittany.com.ph.

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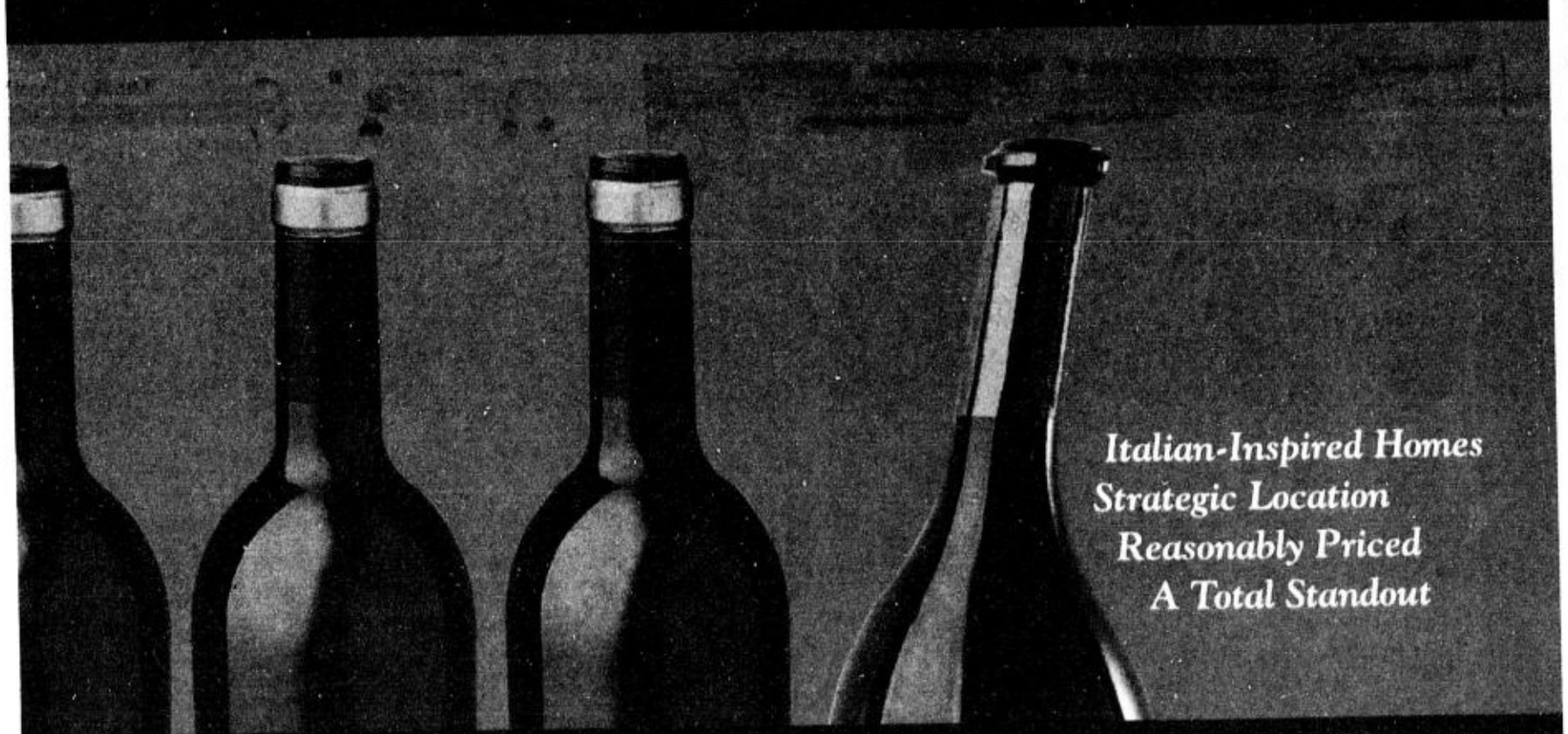

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Dealer partnership between MGS, Stone 2000 reaps success

A SIX-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MGS Corp., a leading diversified construction firm, and Stone 2000, an architectural and finishing dealership, has become a successful team-up strengthening the business performance of both partners in the highly competitive construction supply sector.

MGS has a product range that includes ready mix, the manufacture of premium homebuilding products, housing construction, land development, trading and distribution.

For its part, Stone 2000 is a dealership network with seven stores in Metro Manila, two showrooms in the Alabang and Ortigas Home Depots, and a shop in the Calabarzon area. Over the past 20 years, Stone 2000 has grown from a simple marble and stone store, into a dealer of building stones and blocks in 1996, to its current specialization in architectural and finishing product lines since 1999.

Collaboration

According to Stone's chief operating officer Naps Algenio, in the year 2000 the company started distributing MGS stone pavers, as well as providing installation and maintenance services for these products.

"Our collaboration with MGS has strengthened our distribution network and increased the volume of our prospective clients, who are mostly homeowners and commercial establishments," says the Stone 2000 executive.

He adds that his company has chosen to carry stone pavers by MGS because of the latter's quality standards and efficiency in meeting the demands of clients. MGS pavers are the result of process innovations involving patented technology for concrete masonry production from Besser Inc. based in the United States.

Known for superiority

MGS pavers and other lines are known for superiority and strength as construction materials in the middle to upscale market for premium homebuilding products. These products are often preferred for use in small to large residential, commercial, institutional, industrial and special projects, by leading developers, architects and contractors.

Algenio says MGS pavers are noted for their esthetic and functional applications, adding value to construction projects with their durability, looks and maintenance qualities. He says that MGS pavers at Stone 2000 which are most saleable are the Zigzag and Hispania designs, in colors of terra cotta, gray, yellow and green. These pavers are widely used in the construction of homes and commercial centers.

For inquiries on pavers by MGS, call 873-1793 and 874-4126 or visit the company web site at www.mgs.com.ph. Interested parties may also call Stone 2000 at 699-30-07 699-30-06.

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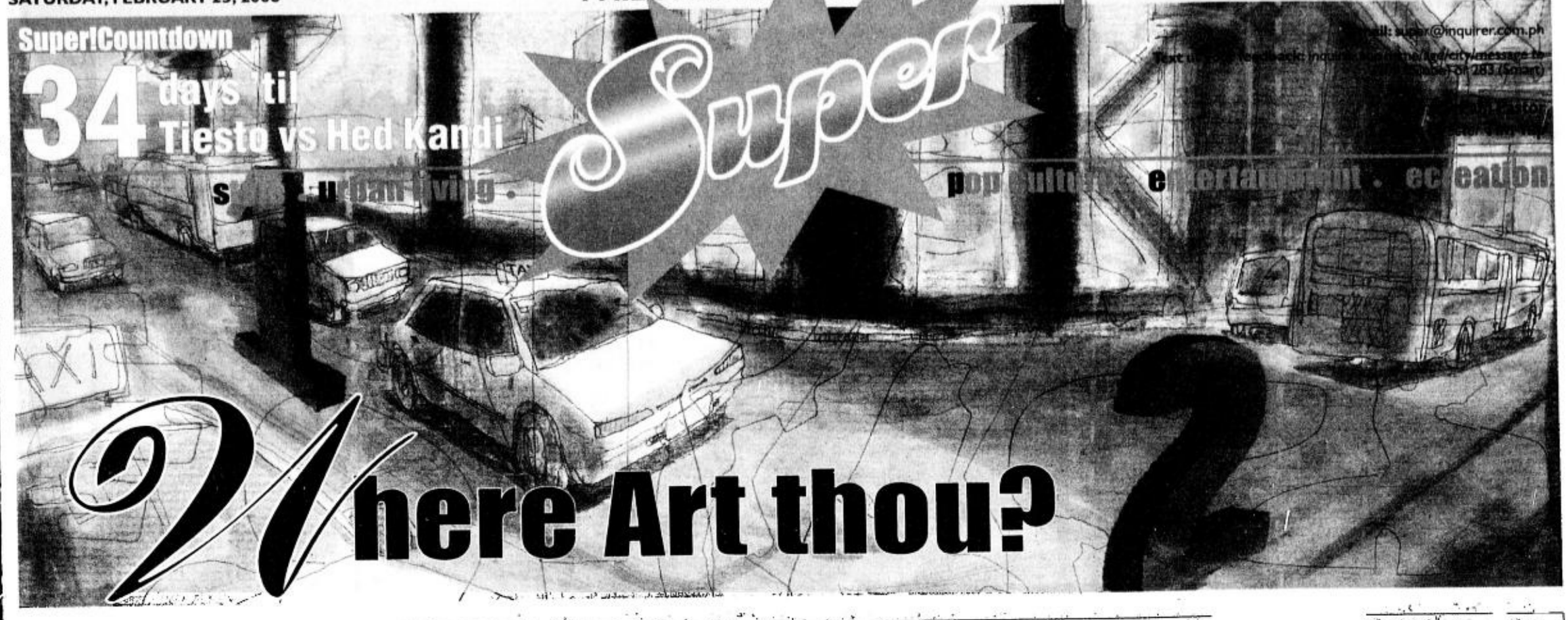


Super artist-in-residence JASON MOSS' depiction of Edsa poses this question: Where are the people?

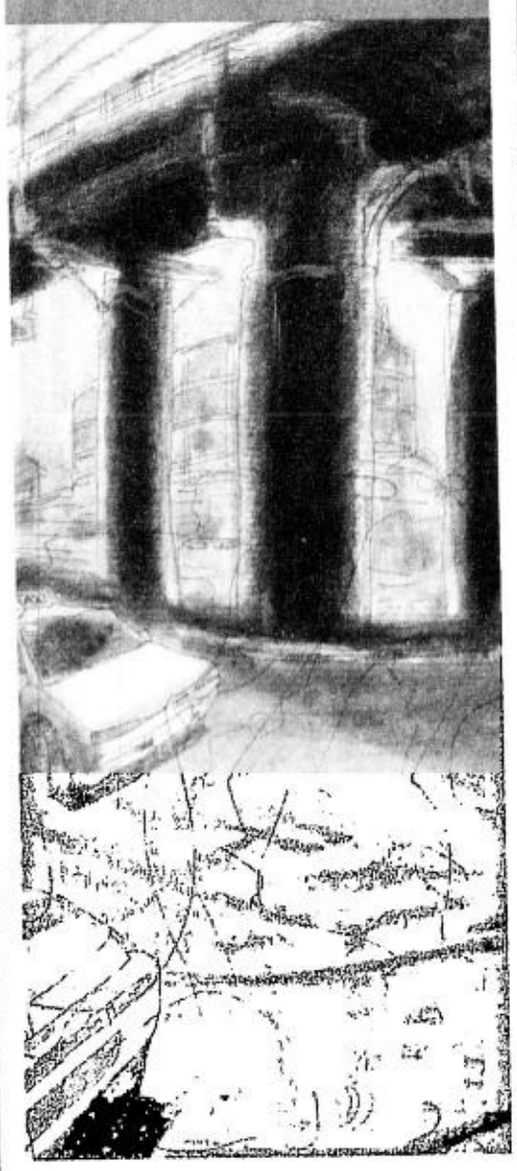
Films like Nasaan si Francis? page C2

Spirit of Edsa now? page C2

French Revolution and fat women? page D1

Skulls as pop-culture trend? page D2

Celebrities frolicking in the sun? page E1



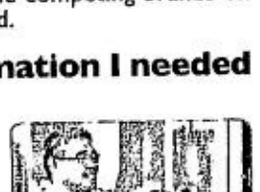
I saw our in-store display without seeing the store

Allen Bacallan of General Milling Corporation is one of many other Globe users who were the first to experience the power of Globe 3G since January. He cites the usefulness of video sharing for his company.

"Show me the product, show me the display."

From his office at the Export Bank Plaza, he asked one of his staff members to call him from the convenience store nearby to do an impromptu trade check. Through their Globe 3G phones, he was able to see how his products were displayed on the store's shelves as well as the inventory. But more importantly, he was able to check whether they stood out against the competing brands on the same shelves. They did.

"I got the information I needed right on time."



This February, Allen arrived early for a meeting at the Shangri-La Hotel. While waiting for the meeting to start, he watched the latest news from ANC on his phone.

Thanks to Globe 3G video streaming, he got up-to-the-minute prices of commodities just in time for the meeting.

3G

The faster transmission speeds and higher bandwidth of Globe 3G open a lot of doors for new and innovative services that help you in making more informed decisions faster. In addition to video sharing and video streaming, you also have video calling that lets you see and hear who you are talking to as well as fast browsing and even faster downloads for Internet surfing and downloading at DSL speeds.

ABS-CBN INTERACTIVE GMA

Of course, it's not always work for Allen. When stuck in traffic on the way home, he watches his favorite TV shows on ABS-CBN and GMA. Sometimes, he browses through his favorite websites which range from CNN News to palmjokes.com.

"Akala rin nila expert ako sa wine."

Once, when Allen went out for dinner with his friends, they thought he was sending out a text message when he was actually connecting to bbr.com. So when it came time to order wine, he didn't just recommend the best region, but the best vintage as well.

"When Globe first introduced text messaging, they set a new standard in communication. With 3G, they continue to raise the bar. I'm impressed."

As the leader in mobile innovation, Globe continues to be committed in making great things possible and enriching the lives of the Filipino people.

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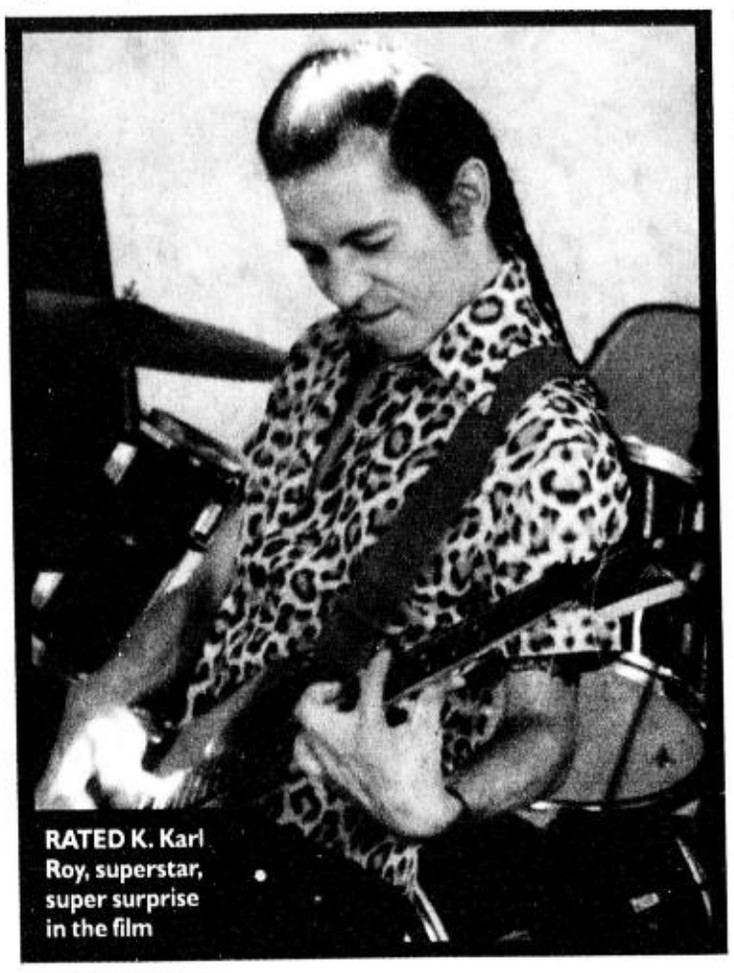
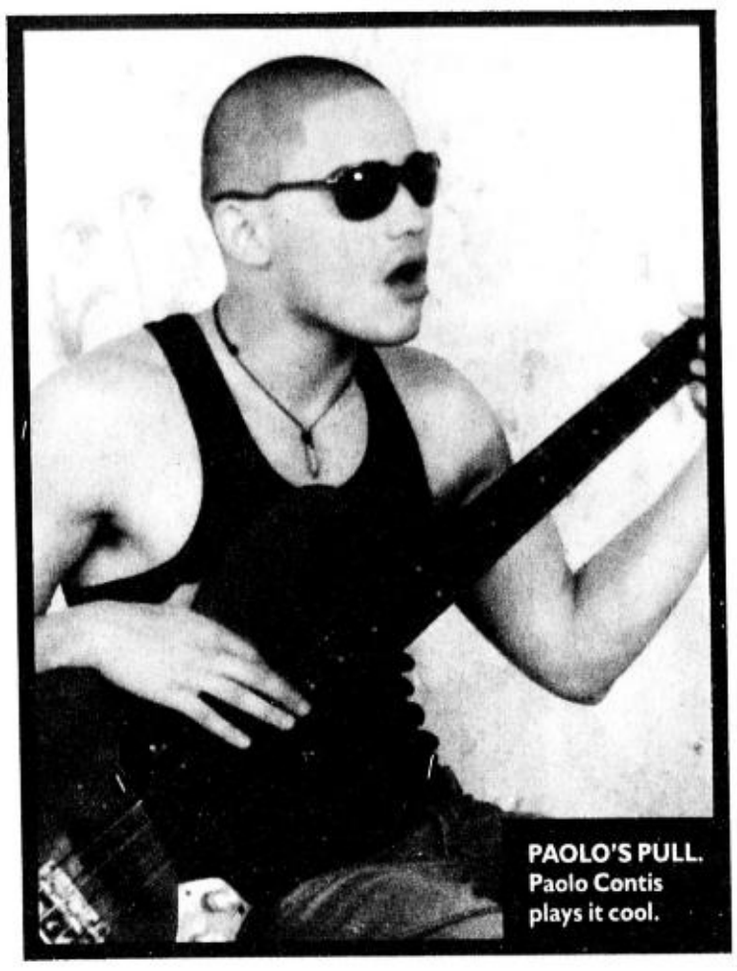
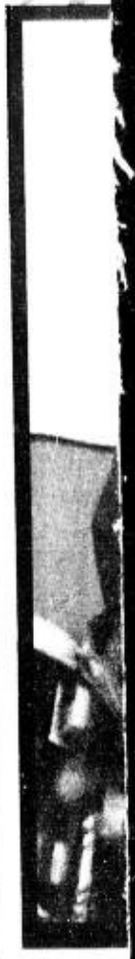
EPY QUIZON is a superb actor, even when playing dead.



RATED K. Karl Roy, superstar, super surprise in the film



PAOLO'S PULL. Paolo Contis plays it cool.



Francis? Um, Francis where ar

Watch Epy Quizon play a dead body and Christopher de Leon play a drug dealer

From page C4

do feel the energy in the film. You feel like they all had fun working together.

But do they expect the *masa* to respond to this energy? Christopher de Leon thinks so.

"Yes, it's an 'alternative' kind of film, it's different from usual films. But it's a linear story people can relate to. It's the kind of movie where you just sit back, laugh—it's good, clean fun—everybody can get it. I think we will touch audiences. That's our responsibility as filmmakers—to hit the audience. To make them feel—laugh, cry, whatever. Maybe make them think a little bit."

It's a super movie that allows you to sit back and enjoy. Christopher says, "I've seen a lot of the new films that have come out, and what happens is the filmmakers are just showing what they can do. They're preoccupied with 'wow-ing' the audience. But that's not filmmaking e. We're not m**turbating here. We're here to connect to the audience. We're here for the audience."

Amen. Let's all have fun looking for Francis together.

Unico Entertainment, in association with Unitel Pictures, presents a Crazy Angle production, "Nasaan Si Francis," which opens nation-wide on March 1.

Where is Edsa?

By Pepe Diokno

We've all heard from the heroes and veterans of Edsa. How about a story from someone who wasn't there?

IT'S EDSA TIME! TOO bad it had to fall on a Saturday. Kids from La Salle and Poveda though, congratulations, enjoy your off-days! See, for a lot of us Feb. 25 means two things. One, no school. Two, potential for social unrest, therefore, no school. (We win both ways.)

The 1986 Edsa revolution happened a little over a year before I was born. Me, and people my age, are at the head of what's called the "post-Edsa generation." We don't know what the martial law years were like. We don't know what Edsa was like. Don't get us wrong though, we'd sure like to know.

We were told that the martial law era was a really dark one. But we're kinda in the dark, too.

Yes, we know all the facts about the revolution, down to Ninoy Aquino's birthday. We know the fairy tale story: How Marcos, a powerful dictator, was defeated by the people because they were one.

But in the end, this is where Edsa dies for us. Edsa I has become this obligatory date in our history —a day without school! Edsa I has become a fairy tale, which most of us reserve for weird discussions or for days like February 25.

The rest of the time, Edsa's dead.

We relegate Edsa to these four days, we remember Edsa only when we feel the need to and we kill Edsa. When Edsa stands for protest, when Edsa comes out only because of oppression, then it's dead.

It makes me angry that the revolution to most of us has become a set of dates and actions that little children memorize for Sibika. And I'm angry that most of what we've read so far is about the events that transpired, and the generals and politicians "who made Edsa happen." Edsa is not about them. Edsa is also more than the people who were there. It's even more than the leaders it has ousted.

Instead of General Ramos, let's talk about love. Instead of Cory, let's talk about permanent unity. Instead, let's talk about respect for our country and our fellowmen. When we do this, then I think we'd be at Edsa.

The best way, for me, to commemorate this day is to build an Edsa— anywhere, or everywhere. We don't have to camp out on the streets, but let's live in peaceful revolution.

Let's live in progress, in unity. Not in a world of disruption—but most certainly not in a world of EO 464s, and calibrated preemptive responses. We should exist for each other, as I imagine you did at Edsa.

Tomorrow is the end of the revolution celebration pomp, but it shouldn't be the end of Edsa, and what it stands for. Tie 'em yellow ribbons along the highways forever. Let's "Laban," even after we topple the next oppressive regime.

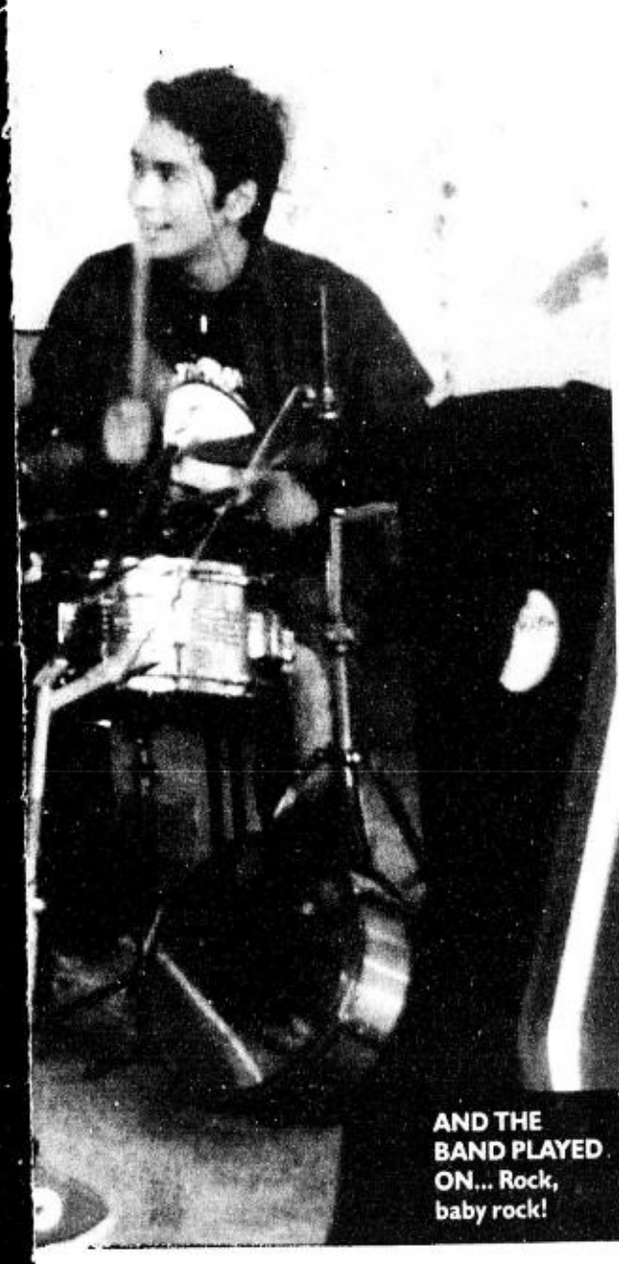
I'd like to ask a favor from you who were lucky enough to have felt the joy of revolution. Don't tell us about it. Show us Edsa. A lot of us don't know what it looks like.

SI RICO YAN! A revelation as a comic actor

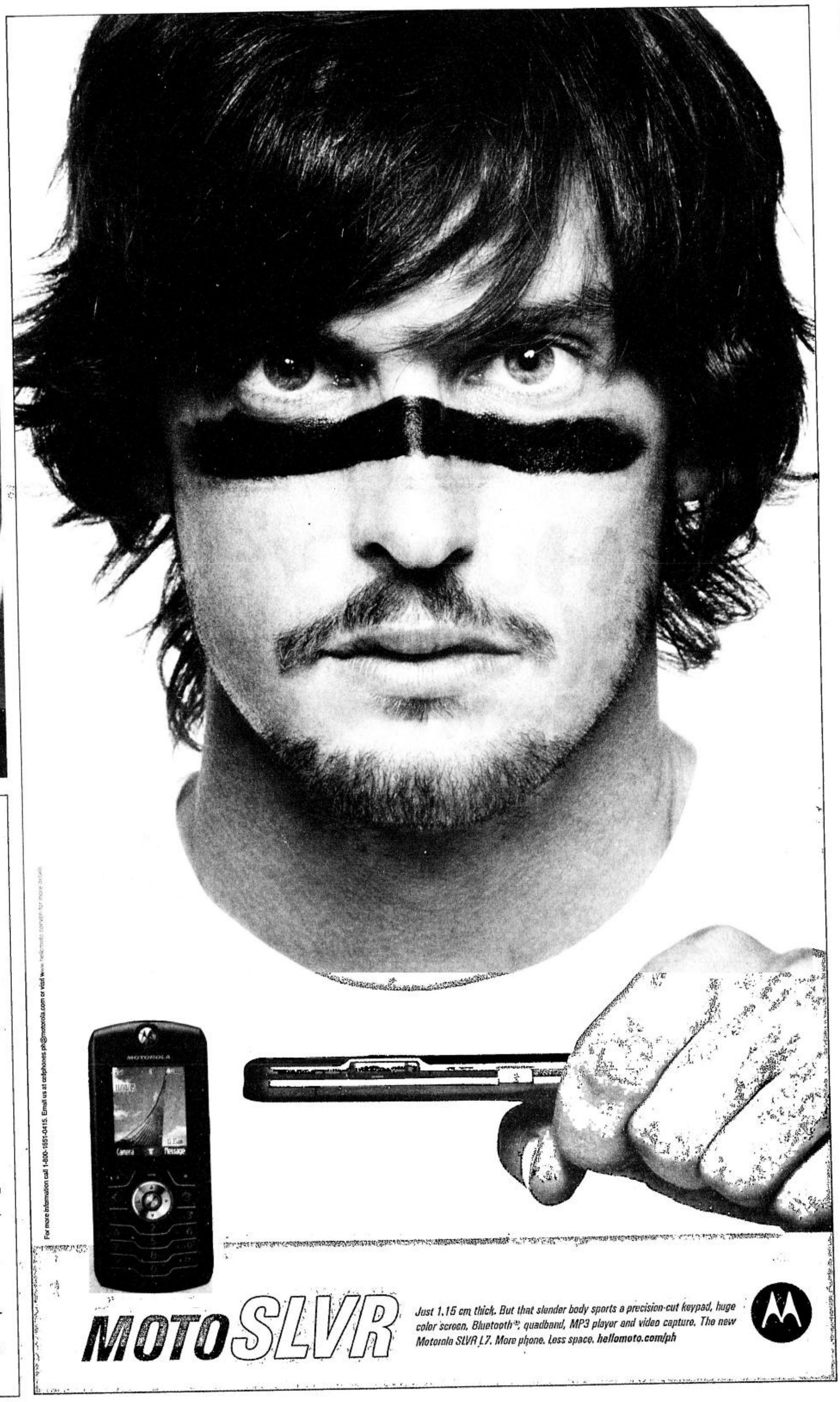
Rockstars. a drug dealer. junkies. prostitutes. a 'yaya.' one heck of a movie

BOYS IN THE BAND. Now in the movie "Nasaan si Francis?" playing this March

'e you?



AND THE BAND PLAYED ON... Rock, baby rock!



Where were ya?

YEAH, I WASN'T EVEN IN MY MOTHER'S TUMMY, BUT some Super! friends were around to see the glory. Feb. 25 is a humongous event in our history. These lucky peeps have their little Edsa stories to tell:

MICAELA BENEDICTO, Outer Hope: This is a boring answer, but I was 8 years old at home watching it on TV.

MARCUSHIRO, Electrolychee.com: I was Grade IV cheering for Cory-Doy making the "Laban!" sign while watching TV.

LEX LEDESMA, Center for International Education: I was living in LA at the time watching CNN all day and night wishing I was in Edsa. Everyone at my grade school became so curious about our country. Made me really proud.

YAM LARANAS, filmmaker: First, I was still a virgin! But seriously, I was in Davao very far from the action. I was in class when the PA system blurted out something like, "...Marcos has left the building!" It must have been the same euphoria when Aguinaldo declared our (short-lived) independence from Spain. I wanted to go to Edsa and celebrate our new-found freedom—was able to do that exactly a year after!

MARC ABAYA, musician/MTV VJ: I was made to stay put at my *lolo*'s place while both my parents took pictures of what was happening in the streets of Edsa. Edsa I was an event. It was supposed to be something really special; a time and place for "change."

CLAIRE OLIVAR, MTV VJ: I was a newborn in New York. My dad was a recognized activist before the left the Philippines, so I've heard a lot about it. I think it was a monumental day for us. To see so many people come together and put so much heart and energy to save their nation is amazing.

EPY QUIZON, actor: I used to live in Blue Ridge, right beside Aguinaldo. I was with a good friend of mine, Carlo. Those times, we would bike around Aguinaldo. And I remember there was a bus that was blocking Gate 3. Some of the people inside had megaphones, "*Sumali kayo sa amin!*" We really didn't know what was happening, we thought it was just a small protest—and then it became really big.

JENNI EPPERSON, fashionista/shoppingera: I was at home. Tying yellow ribbons around our house, around our help, and all around my head.

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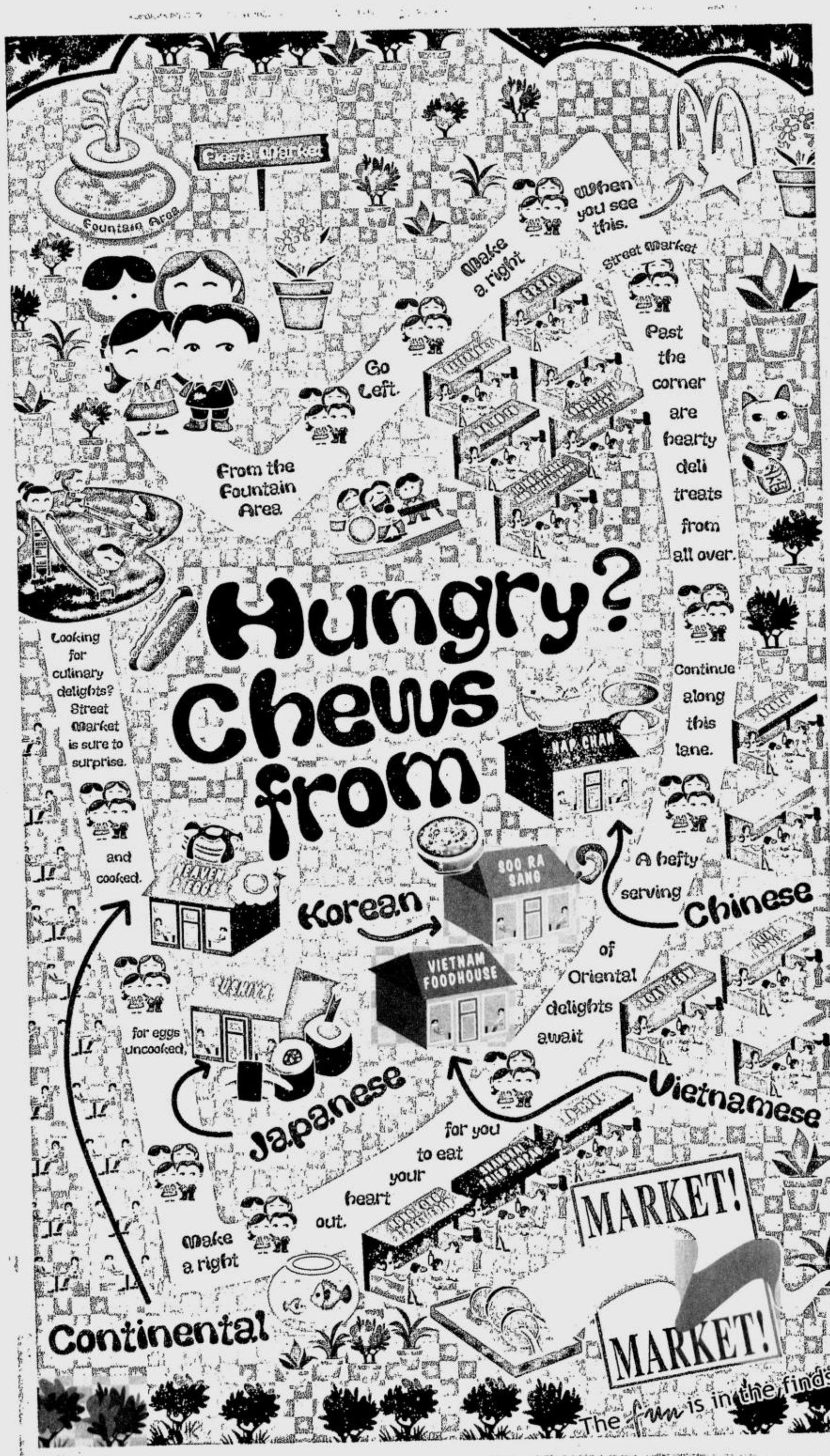
Francis? Um, Francis where are you?



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'Nasaan si Francis?' opens March 1! Where will you be?

By Pepe Diokno
Stills from the movie "Nasaan si Francis?"

ON MARCH 1, THEATRES will start showing a movie in which Epy Quizon plays a dead body, and Christopher de Leon, a drug dealer. How cool is that? It's not something you'd expect from these actors.

"I want to surprise my fans," Christopher says. "They're used to seeing me as this executive that's in love with this girl. In this movie, I'm a drug dealer but I'm dancing in some parts, dancing with the girls, going wild."

Christopher plays Rocky, to whom Francis owes money. Other characters in the film are Francis' siblings, Manong Jay and Lin-lin (Ricky Davao and Rita Avila), Francis' girlfriend Ana (Angel Aquino), and Karl Roy—who spends most of the film asleep. Uhm.

All these people are hunting Francis down and Boy and Sonny (Paolo Contis and Rico Blanco) are hiding him. Nope, this isn't a spoiler. We know where Francis is the whole time. What's funny is seeing all these characters interact with each other. When the drug dealer, the druggies, the prostitutes and the *yaya* come together at the end of the film, it's murder.

"This was actually an entry into Cinemalaya. It didn't make it into the finals, but according to Epy, who also produced the film under his company Crazy Angle, Tony Gloria, who was one of the screeners of the festival, saw the film and said, "I'd love to do this!" Tony Gloria became executive producer of the movie.

Epy also jumped all over his role—as the dead body. He refused body doubles and dolls. "I told Gabby (Fernandez, the director) that I wanted to do everything myself. But they toss me around almost the whole time and at the end of the day, I'd have bruises, my bones would hurt. This is not an actor's role. It's a stuntman's role!"

Epy also did the project as a promise to the first-time director. Gabby Fernandez was trained by Peque Gallaga and has been his assistant director. Peque shares credit with Gabby for the story of "Nasaan si Francis." The film is actually based on the play, "Diin na si Francis," improvised by the 2003 BEING batch of the Negros Summer Workshops which Peque Gallaga handles.

It must be hard, though, for a writer and a director to deal with so many characters without overlooking any but it looks like Gabby's succeeded in bringing out a lot from his characters. "He's a director who collaborates. He gives you options on how to go about the character. Everyone worked together," Epy explains.

"He's very organized. He knows what he wants. He knows how to eliminate production costs, but still when you see what he's captured you know he did not shortcut anything. A good word to describe him is precise. You feel his youth in the movie that you're seeing," he continues.

Christopher agrees. "Gabby is contagious. You feel his excitement, like he really wants to do the best with every take. Cause sometimes, with us old ones, we just say, 'Let's just go shoot this,' but it wasn't like that with this film. And that inspired me." It's cliché but it's true—you

FRANCIS/ C2

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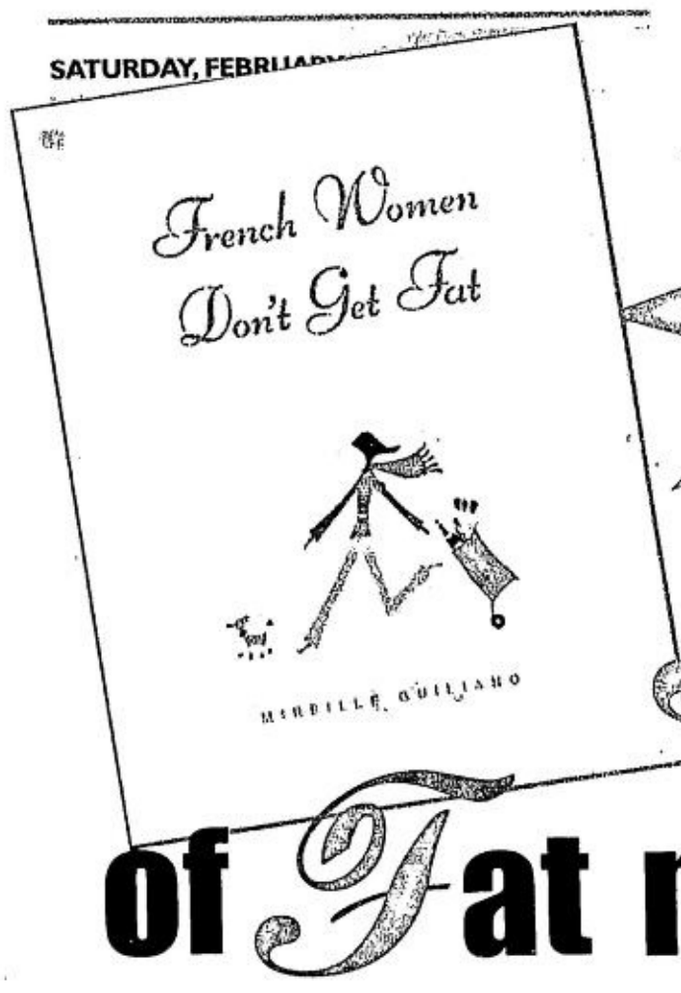

French zen and the art of Fat maintenance

Or how a little cookbook saved me from joining the revolution against all things fatty

Tals Diaz

THE YEAR IS 2006, AND THE people are restless. They are panicking about the very real threat of killer kilos and a slowing metabolism. Thus, a rebellion is brewing against all things fatty and fried. The modern battle of the bulge is upon us! Soon, it shall escalate into a full-scale war against weight gain.

I didn't have to press my ears hard against the walls to hear conspiratorial whispers everywhere. Over coffee, girlfriends divulge their secret weapons in the form of little herbal pills, appetite suppressants and icky-tasting teas. In the gym, guys add a thousand more sit ups to their usual routine in the hopes of trimming down their holiday bellies. At dinners, everyone's chattering about the latest fad diet, whether it's the South Beach Diet or the Boracay Beach Station Two (liquid) Diet. I even got wind of the ultra-effective Cabbage Soup Diet, a natural diuretic, a coup d'etat carried out in the *kubeta*. All this fat phobia leads me to wonder what is the real enemy, carbs or paranoia?

Truth to tell, I used to be oblivious to all this diet dialogue, because I would just not be bothered to skip meals, much less—gasp!—cut out rice from my dinner plate! But this skinnier-than-thou, French fry-loving, Happy Mealhead recently, reluctantly, joined the rebellion against all things fattening, when I was struck by extra poundage that creeped up when I wasn't looking. Blame it on the endless string of holiday revelries, and the fact that eighty percent of the people I know seem to be born in January and February.

The 'Die' in 'Diet'

But I would especially like to credit the renowned tactlessness of many Pinoys who find no wrong in commenting blatantly about other people's bodies to their faces. Tell me, what is the proper response, other than an open-mouthed, dumbstruck look, when assailed with a blithe comment like, "*Homaygad, tumaba ka!!!*" (I've actually whittled down the best snappy comeback to this one liner: "*Homaygad, pumanget kah!!!*")

So I officially jumped on the bandwagon of masochistic mutineers against all things delicious and chocolatey in the world, and started to eat like a rabbit. Except rabbits have better food. Mmm ... rabbit ...

Okay, I was new to this whole diet shtick, so forgive me if I zoned in on the "die" in the "diet." But when you deprive yourself of the most basic pleasures in life—potato chips, *sisig* and ice cream—really, there's nothing much to look forward to when you wake up in the morning. How do people go on living like this?!!

With a little help from my zen

So just to put something in my system, I decided to feed on something else, something French other than fries. (Besides, they seem to have a panache for revolutions even before it became the in thing.) I took a detour from my usual fiction genre and started reading a little cookbook-slash-memoir that all these chicks have been raving about, called "French Women Don't Get Fat" written by Mireille Guiliano, director of Champagne Veuve Clicquot in Reims. (Of course, the success of this bestseller has spawned unabashed knock-offs like "Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat," and "Mediterranean Women Stay Slim, Too" but that's a whole other story).

Anyway, somewhere between reading about leek soups and baguettes, I started catching on to these other morsels that had

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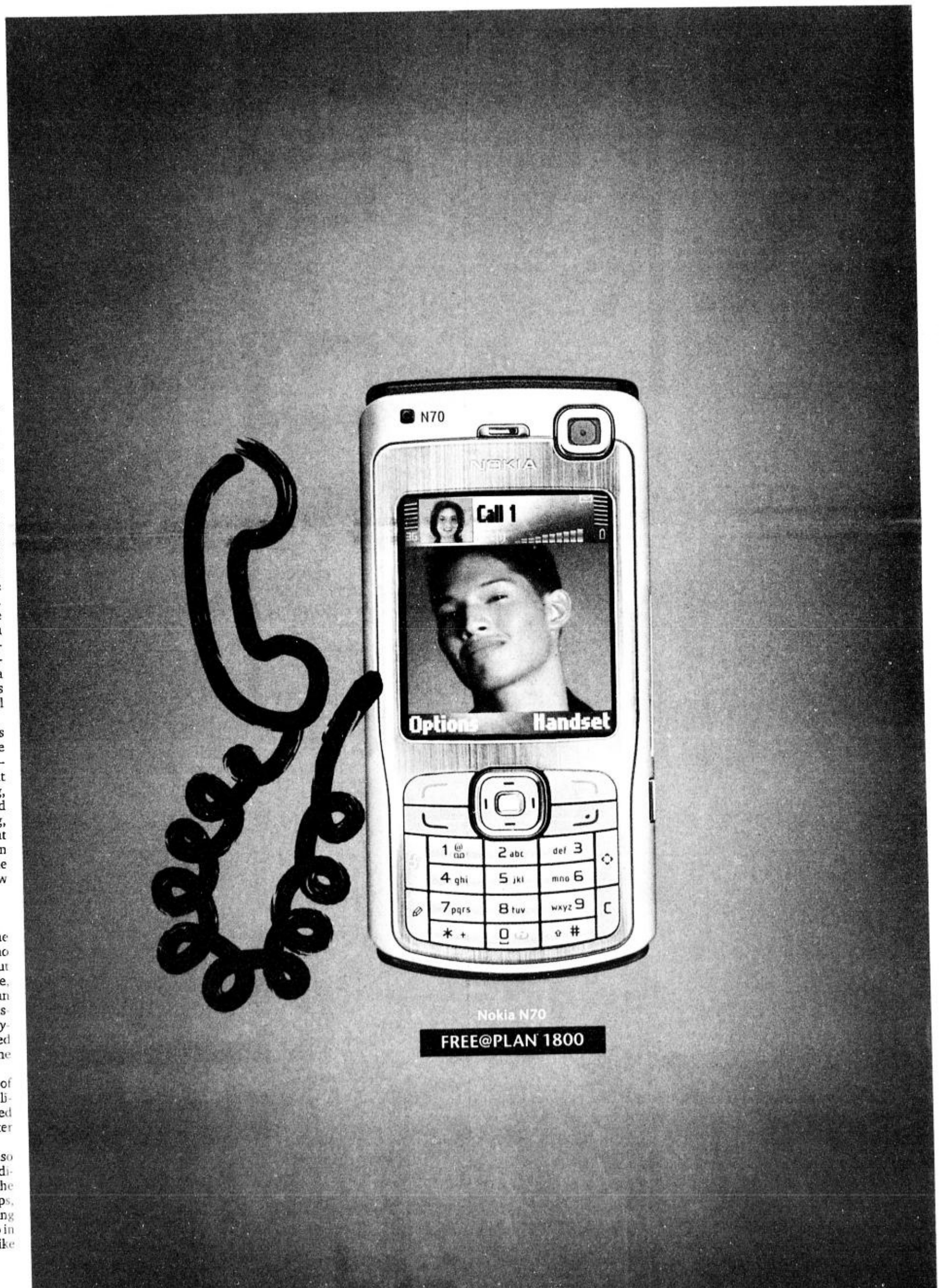


Once a macabre symbol of death, skulls and crossbones now stand for preppy chic. Oh, the irony

Alas, poor Yorick! You're now just a trend.

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

IT WAS MY WAY OF SHOWING MY quirks—my personality, really—and flipping the bird at our preppier-than-preppy dress code.

I was about 12 or 13 then, attending a somewhat snooty private school populated by children with yachts, meathead jocks, and the occasional science dweeb. In this early version of what I've come to call the American Eagle Christian Middle School—a wink at that present-day purveyor of generic collegiate clothing—you either dressed like a tweenage tennis player (multihued Lacoste, khakis) or a brooding Left Bank existentialist (anything black, especially trench coats). There was hardly any wiggle room for self-expression. Unless, of course, it was the right (meaning "endorsed by Jesus") kind of self-expression.

From like to love

Yeah, I was a bleeding heart prepster—still am, honestly—but one who was secretly jonesing for a blip of dirt and danger, the kind the more indie-looking kiddos radiated. The solution to that tiny dilemma also turned out to be my first designer purchase—a skull-and-wooden-bead bracelet. It has become my pseudo-amulet, happily teamed with everything I own for good luck and, I guess, individuality.

Since then, I've taken this cranium craving from like to love, snapping up everything from a skull-and-rose book bag at trickle-down style empire H&M to a pair of skull-print Vans slip-ons designed by underground cartoonist Travis Millard.

See, skulls and crossbones let me be rock 'n' roll while living in Ralph Lauren Land. But that was before Ralph Lauren himself ruined everything. (The irony blows massive donkey balls.) More on that in a bit. The irony, not the donkey balls.

Dem bag of bones

The skull, apparently, didn't start out so chic. A macabre symbol of—duh—death, it has been given mondo religious connotations in several cultures around the world.

Before Columbus touched down in America, for example, the skull was given an esteemed place in the religious symbolism of the Aztecs. To this day, their descendants, whether Indian or of mixed European and Native American heritage, continue to honor human bones during the national Day of the Dead. Nicole Richie, now you know where you will be worshipped.

In Nepal, the use of skull beads on mallas is still common. Hand-carved from yak bone and made with 108 beads, they can be used either as prayer beads (much like rosaries) or as necklaces. Nepalese mallas have also become popular among devotees who worship the goddess Kali or the god Siva. (Meanwhile, I bought similar beads along Melrose Avenue not knowing what they were for, just because I thought they were, like, rad. Anyway.)

Boo, y'all

But among tons of Europeans, the skull is more spooky than spiritual. The skull-and-crossbones combo, known as the Jolly Roger pirate flag, already had several versions by the 1700s. Some had a full skeleton holding a sword or an hourglass as a heads up to the pirates that time was running out or something.

In the case of Edward Teach, a.k.a. Blackbeard, an 18th century marauder who kicked the bucket in 1718, the Royal Navy beheaded him and mounted his skull on their ship. And after the Nazis added the "death head" to their uniforms circa WW2, Mel Gibson, a.k.a. Hamlet, chatted one up, a dude formerly known as Yoric, in the 1990s.

These days, though, skulls, skeletons and bones have been tamed altogether, and one normally sees them during Halloween. Or New York Fashion Week. Which nicely brings me back to my point.

Skeletal style

Once morbid and kinda gnarly, the anti-establishment skull sign is totally trendy right now. Judging by the recent avalanche of press that this fad has brought in, the upgrade from goth to glam could go in many directions.

On the one hand, adopting this skeletal style can be a stroke of genius if it came from an artiste with a rogue sense of humor. Known for his rebellious streak, designer Alexander McQueen is said to have popularized skull chic. In 2003, his skull-print scarf was photographed on starlets like Sienna Miller and Liv Tyler.

Witty knitter Lucien Pellat-Finet's $2500 skull-print cashmere sweaters are also one-offs. In fact, the French label has collaborated with Jacob "The Jeweler" Arabo to create its own version of hip-hop bling. Using his trademark skulls and cannabis leaves, Pellat-Finet has produced two watch models with sporty rubber straps and diamonds, totaling five carats. The price of the ice? A cool $45,000.

Your home can embrace its inner goth as well. Skulls are giving traditional home furnishings a jolt, appearing on formerly stuffy toile pillows and moonlighting as Lucite paperweights.

Kiss of death

On the other hand, skulls and crossbones are becoming so popular that even unlikely designers are weighing in on the trend.

Ralph Lauren's Rugby line boasts more bones than a graveyard, splashing the image on oxfords, caps, notebooks, pants, leather jackets, ties, sweaters and, of course, rugby shirts. Maybe it's a not-so-subtle nod to Skull & Bones, Yale's super WASP-y secret society to which President George W. Bush belonged.

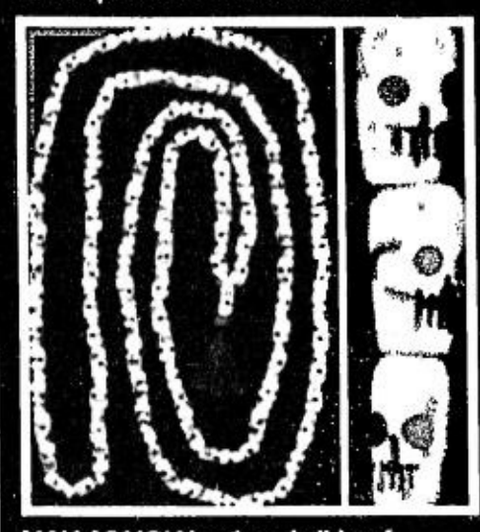
I'd be totally thrilled had I not emblazoned the back of my own rugby shirt with a skull three years ago. But I did, I was first and now, I feel conflicted. Regrettably, it's about to explode soon, becoming overdone and widely available to bottom-feeding mallrats and garish celebutantes. (Nicky Hilton scatters skulls throughout her Chick line. Boo.) I tell you, it's the kiss of death.

An about-face?

Steeped in the masculine ideals of aggression and arrogance, the skull motif used to be a unique and under-the-radar way to inject good old-fashioned punk rock into an outfit. But all the fuss surrounding something I thought I only shared with a clandestine few has forced me to rethink my principles.

Now that the preppy archetype I used to distort has co-opted the same imagery with which I distorted it, my world has become a weirder place. Even rosaries have become acceptable accessories, so nothing seems subversive anymore. If, like me, you, too, were a clean-cut kid with radical aspirations, what would you do? Being normal, it seems, is the new rebellion.

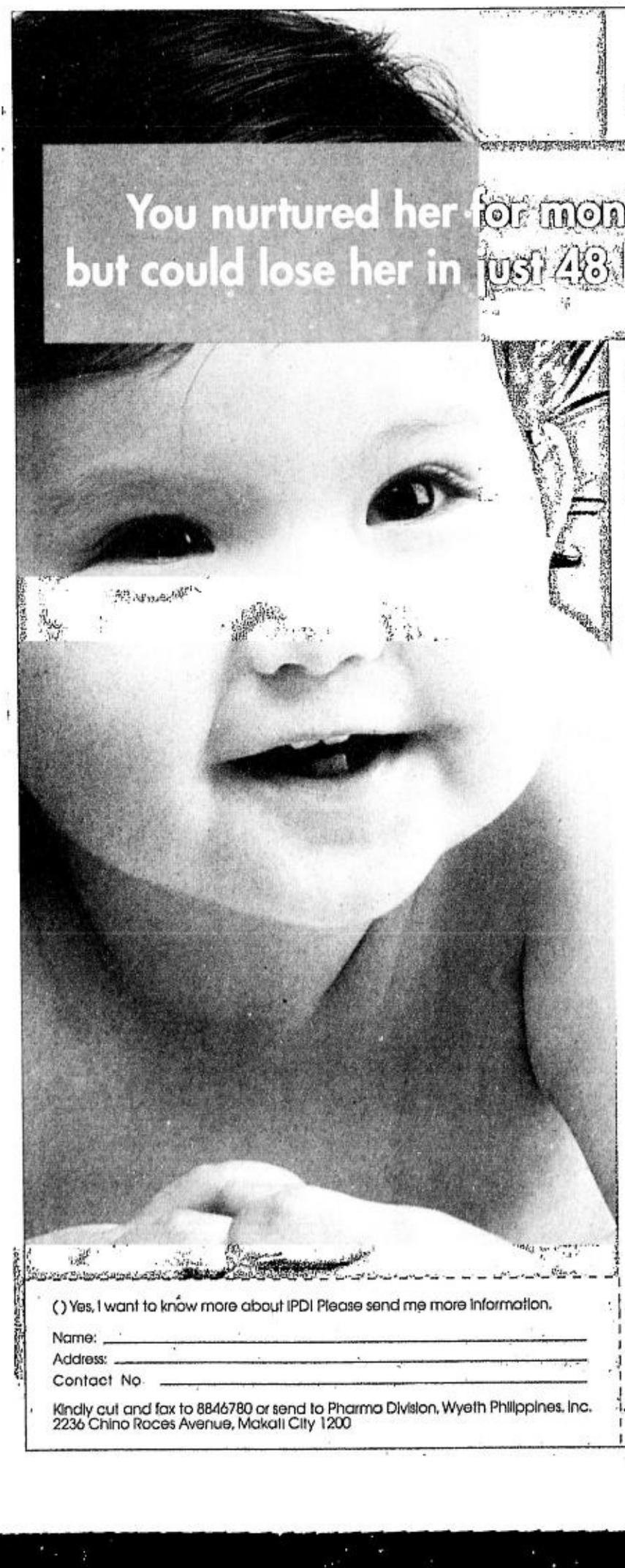
BARDOLATRY. Mel Gibson and Shakespeare's take on skull chic



MALLAS MO! Nepalese skull-bead necklaces, known as mallas

HIGH-END GOTH. Lucien Pellat-Finet's skull-print shirts

THROW ME A BONE. My 3-year-old customized rugby shirt from Canada



Wyeth

The traitor disease, IPD or Invasive Pneumococcal Disease, can take away your child in just 48 hours. According to Dra. Rose Capeding of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (R.I.T.M.), IPD affects both children and the elderly, but infants and toddlers up to 2 years of age are the most vulnerable victims of this deadly disease.

Streptococcus pneumoniae is the bacteria that causes IPD. This silent enemy lives in the nose and throat and is carried around by children without any sign of sickness. In fact, 20-40% of them are perfectly healthy children. IPD is airborne and can spread by direct exposure to those who carry the bacteria. Simple coughing and sneezing are sure ways of contracting it.

Therefore, it puts children with immature and weak immune systems at great risk. Those suffering from chronic diseases such as sickle cell disease, HIV and chronic heart and lung disease are likely to be easily infected. Frequent exposure to other children, such as in day care centers, makes your child highly susceptible to IPD.

IPD is a serious illness and is life-threatening. Mercifully, you can protect your child because an IPD vaccine is now available. For effective protection against this killer illness, immunize your baby at an early age.

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French zen

From page D1

little to do with losing weight. In fact, it had more to do with a healthy mindset more than a skinny-ass frame. The author called it "French Zen," or finding that balance between willpower and pleasure. Some quick bites to chew on:

• There are no quick fixes

In this insta-noodle society, everybody wants overnight results, which explains the popularity of fad diets. Other than instant weight loss, that goes for instant success, love and fame. But nothing of value in life happens in an instant, the things that are truly of worth need the extra thought, effort and time.

• Variety will go a long way toward compensating you for those things you miss—you will actually find yourself not missing them so much. Rage against "gastronomic boredom" or "boring eating," and opt for experimentation and improvisation. Good for your diet, spicy for your life, too! Novelty is a powerful distraction, so leave your comfort zone and try something exciting for a change.

• "Tout est question d'equilibre."—Everything is a matter of balance. This is the quintessentially French mantra that says no to extremism. Thus, it makes sense to be the master of both your narcissistic and hedonistic selves.

• "Bien dans sa peau," meaning to be "comfortable in one's own skin" If we constantly live with other people's standards, then we'll never be happy.

• There is no substitute for *joie de vivre*. Truly, there are so many other things in life that are far more important than obsessing about weight gain, like love, laughter, and, um, cable television.

Now there's some food for thought, which eventually curbed my growing mania for dieting and fat-watching. Come to think of it, everyone's obsession with weight issues seems a bit ... amusing now. Because when it starts controlling you, or taking over every damn conversation in the dinner table, bar, or water cooler, after a while it does start to grow thin.

And when you think about it, we're so fixated about exterior makeovers, but seldom do we ever think about a little interior redesign for a change.

C'est tout, now pass me those French fries!

Relationship Rookie? Read On!

world we all call home, there is that one person you can run to for anything. From buying spark plugs to taking out the wine stain from your favorite shirt. You also wake up with a tingling sensation at the break of each day, knowing that you can talk to someone about the mundane details of your day and they're genuinely interested. You feel a connection with someone and to be honest, I know of no better feeling that involves another human being that can give one such joy.

I'm not out to preach the virtues of coupledom. It's just that I feel that in today's world when you have seminars that teach you to toughen up, assert yourself and be the captain of your destiny there seems to have been a loss of emphasis in vulnerability. And for one to be in a loving relationship it is key that you leave a soft spot that another person can use as the entry way into your being. At the end of the day, vulnerability really shows that we have become so courageous that you are not afraid of anyone or anything that will push you off the edge.

To individuals out there who are on the verge of getting into a relationship or contemplating venturing into one, I just have this to say. As in any relationship, responsibility is key to its success. We've all heard it before and sad to say that it still holds true even in this age of play stations and sonic jet flights. It is best to be fulfilled as an individual than look to another person to fill in that vacuum inside of you. If you approach a potential boyfriend-girlfriend relationship this way, we have one sure recipe for disaster. What even works better is having a full and rich spiritual life that will anchor you well in your faith. After all, a relationship is one of the any gifts that GOD brings to you that truly tests how you have grown in HIS spirit. A relationship becomes a manifestation of how your values have developed. So in this season of love, people out there may be in that crossroad—that "the should-I-stay-or-should-I-go" phase. Be still. A number of revelations come when you strain to listen to the whispers of your heart;.. just resolve to use your head after you give air time to it.

By Mae Young
Super! contributor

A SELF-CONFESSED RELATIONSHIP neophyte posed a rather intriguing question. After much thought, the question burned and later turned worrisome. "What changes happen when boy and girl finally take their relationship to that level when they are finally IN an exclusive relationship?" It made me really think.

I'm not a relationship maven. What's even tricky is the fact that I've not been conscious of how I've morphed from one stage of the relationship to another. So then, here I am, just trying to make sense of things myself. Setting aside those rose-tinted glasses, I dare to venture into this query, hopefully to enlighten other affair amateurs out there.

1. You will encounter a lot of worrying.

When you love someone, it becomes second nature. You just turn into a big, fat, worrywart. You can't help it. If you want to have a clearer picture of this, think Mom. But I digress. You'll be hounded by questions like What if the car she's driving loses gas and the next stop is 100 meters away? What if the salad he's about to eat has dreaded particles of eggplant bits that gives him an allergic reaction resulting to that awful, hacking cough? Has she noticed that that the toll booth guy is actually becoming "too friendly" with her? And that lady guard? Has he noticed how much whiter her teeth have been. You have a gazillion what ifs. We've all been there and yes it felt logical then as much as it feels silly now. Well, too bad that buyer's remorse has no counterpart in love land. Once you've thought it, it festers and then you wonder why they fix just one color for jealousy when you see red and feel blue.

2. You will be broke.

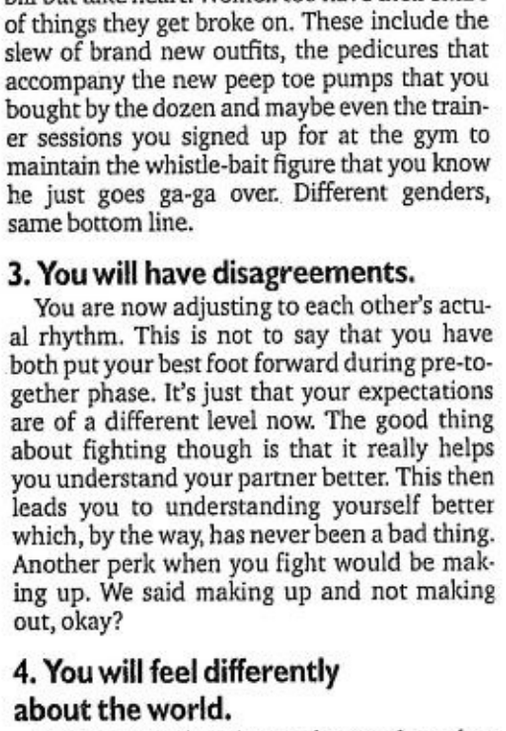
And you thought the expenses ended when you were a—courting! Gentlemen, when you're so into the love of your love you just plan, collaborate, scheme and cook up ways to be with her, make her feel special, and this ultimately leads to making you feel good. The dinners for two have just stepped up a notch to vacations for two. Now, you may be footing the bill but take heart. Women too have their share of things they get broke on. These include the slew of brand new outfits, the pedicures that accompany the new peep toe pumps that you bought by the dozen and maybe even the trainer sessions you signed up for at the gym to maintain the whistle-bait figure that you know he just goes ga-ga over. Different genders, same bottom line.

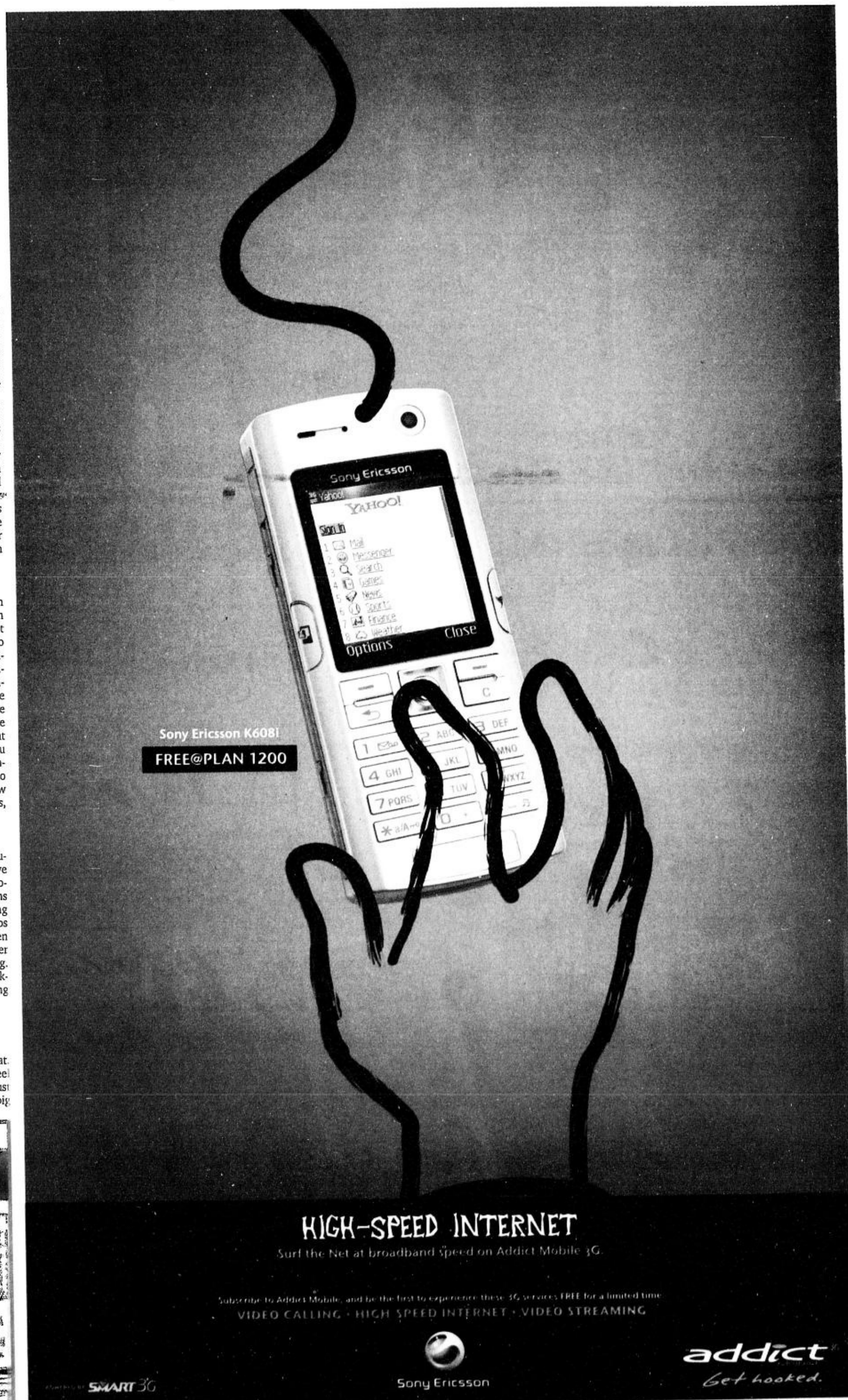
3. You will have disagreements.

You are now adjusting to each other's actual rhythm. This is not to say that you have both put your best foot forward during pre-together phase. It's just that your expectations are of a different level now. The good thing about fighting though is that it really helps you understand your partner better. This then leads you to understanding yourself better which, by the way, has never been a bad thing. Another perk when you fight would be making up. We said making up and not making out, okay?

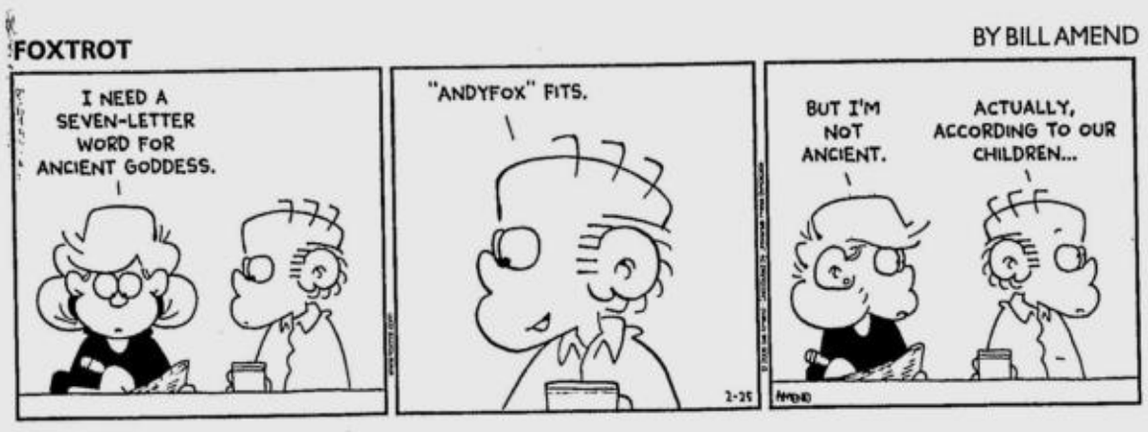
4. You will feel differently about the world.

I can't articulate it any better than that. When you are in a relationship, you will feel that you are part of one invincible team just raring to take on the world. That in this big





FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

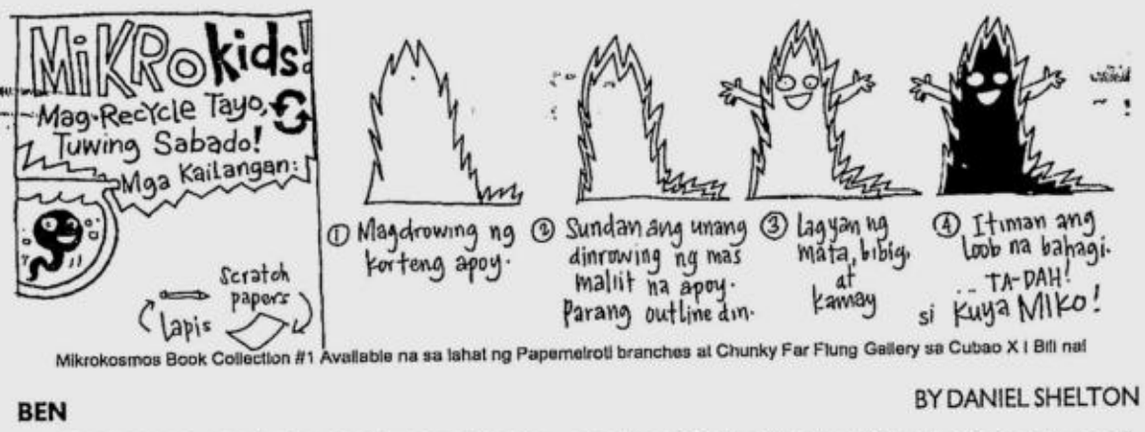
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



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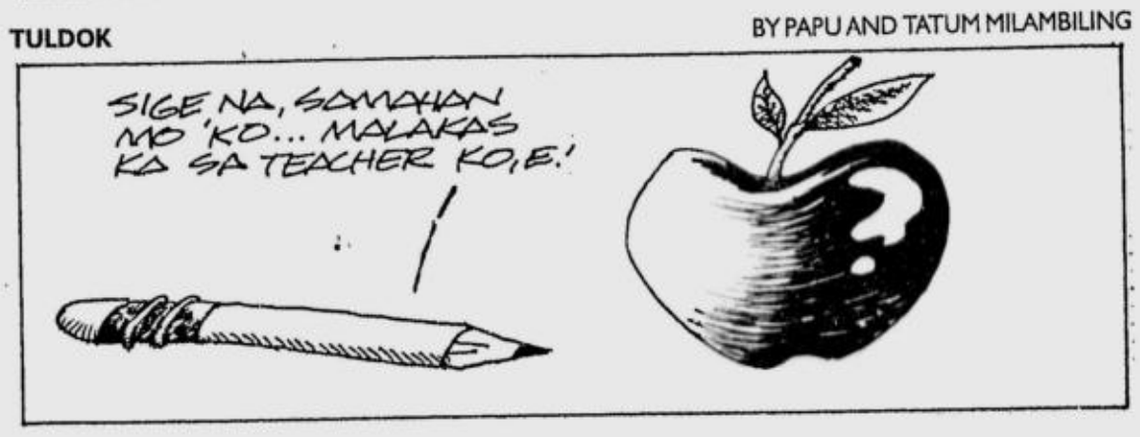
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are dramatic. You're a generous individual who is inspired by great causes. You're very devoted to whatever you believe in. As you grow older, you become more philanthropic. In your youth, however, you're quite a rebel. Get ready for a fantastic year ahead. It could be one of the best years of your life!
Birthdate of: Sean Astin, actor; George Harrison, musician; Tom Courtenay, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You might feel lonely or cut off from others today. Don't worry about this. It's a temporary dark cloud on your horizon. It's actually just a feeling that will be gone in a day or two.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Relations with authority figures, especially parents, might look a bit bleak today. You feel misunderstood or rejected. Things look completely different by Monday. (Whew!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Don't let someone's pessimistic philosophy about religion or politics get to you. Everybody has a different take on things. Don't listen to people's criticism of your ideas.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might feel broke today. Michael Todd once said he was flat broke many times, but he was never poor. "Poor" was a state of mind. (Mind you, that's easier said than felt!)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today, you feel misunderstood by someone close to you. Your feelings could be hurt. Fortunately, this feeling passes in 48 hours. Relax.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Authority figures and parents are a bit difficult today. Coworkers might criticize you. This makes you feel like navel lint! Let it go. (You're as good as you ever were.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might feel weighed down by the responsibilities and obligations of children, or dealing with young people or worries about gambling debts. This is a temporary crunchy feeling, just for today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Criticism from a parent or boss can hurt. We all want approval from others, especially those in authority. It's no big deal.

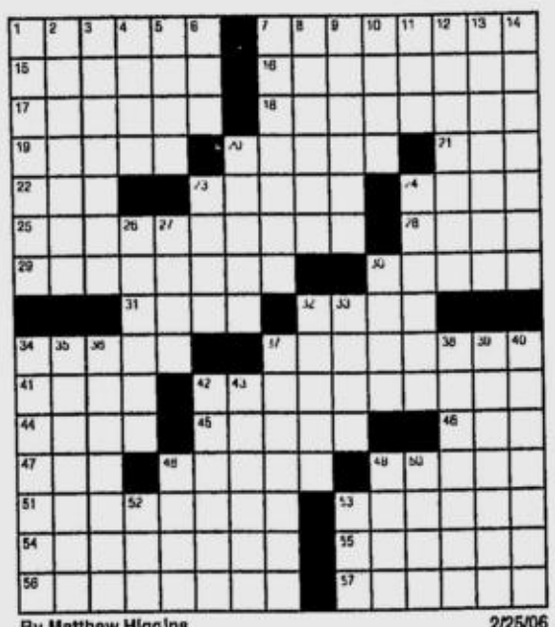
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A very brief transit could make you feel disappointed in others, especially siblings and relatives. Others might think you're in a bad mood. Don't worry—this feeling is gone by tomorrow.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): There's a tendency to look on the dark side of things today, especially with your finances and possessions. You might feel like a loser. This is just a temporary isolated feeling.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today the Moon is in your sign. This is good. However, it opposes stern Saturn. This is not so good. That's why you feel unpopular and unloved. By tomorrow, you feel completely different.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone's comments confirm your worst suspicions about yourself. Don't give this gloomy stuff another thought. This negativity blows away by tomorrow.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

2/25/06

ACROSS
1 Vaudevillian Tucker
7 Office job category
15 Full of anxiety
16 Well-read intelligentsia
17 Elton John's Taupin
18 Components
19 Mears and Moranis
20 Egyptian city
21 Seventh tones
22 Mine vein
23 Like fabric from a loom
24 Game of chance
25 Language of Sri Lanka
28 News fact
29 Started
30 Come to an end
31 Performs
32 False god
34 Harsh in appearance
37 Swamp
41 Cheese ingredient
42 Admission
44 St. Louis eleven
45 Double quartet
46 Pop's counterpart
47 Simpson trial judge Lance
48 Private teacher
49 Letter before epsilon
51 Militant supporter
53 Areca nuts
54 Edge of the tundra
55 Presbyterian parsonages
56 Made blue
57 Fleshy-lipped fish

DOWN
1 Confidentially
2 Of dreams
3 One of each hundred
4 Looped bundle of yarn
5 Goddess of fertility
6 CBS logo
7 Stuck fast
8 Tiger and Madonna
9 Forever, in a poem
10 Adventure hero Williams
11 Wrath
12 Choral and instrumental composition
13 Outfits
14 Limber
20 Younger and Porter
23 Power unit
24 Gracie and Tolie
26 Security staff
27 Bad writer
30 Those opposed
32 Conclude from evidence
33 Song for two
34 Movie texts
35 Large lizardlike reptile
36 Steel-clad
37 Uttered in a monotone
38 Without purpose
39 Drives along casually
40 As a body
42 "My __ Vinny"
43 Anti-knock number
48 Mosaic piece
49 Expensive
50 Sicilian volcano
52 Sen. Kennedy
53 Autobahn auto

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	G	O	G		B	E	A	D		W	A	S	T	E
P	E	R	E		E	T	T	U		E	T	H	A	N
H	E	A	R	T	S	O	A	R		L	E	E	R	Y
I	N	L	A	W	S		L	E	S	S		E	P	A
S	A	B	L	E		R	O	S	E	H	I	P		
			D	E	B	U	S	S	Y		S	C	A	T
I	T	T		Z	I	G	S		M	A	N	O	R	S
L	O	I	T	E	R	S		M	O	N	T	A	N	A
I	O	D	I	D	E		T	O	U	T		T	O	R
E	T	A	L		T	H	E	O	R	E	M			
		L	E	C	T	E	R	N		N	O	O	S	E
C	A	B		H	A	A	S		S	N	O	R	E	R
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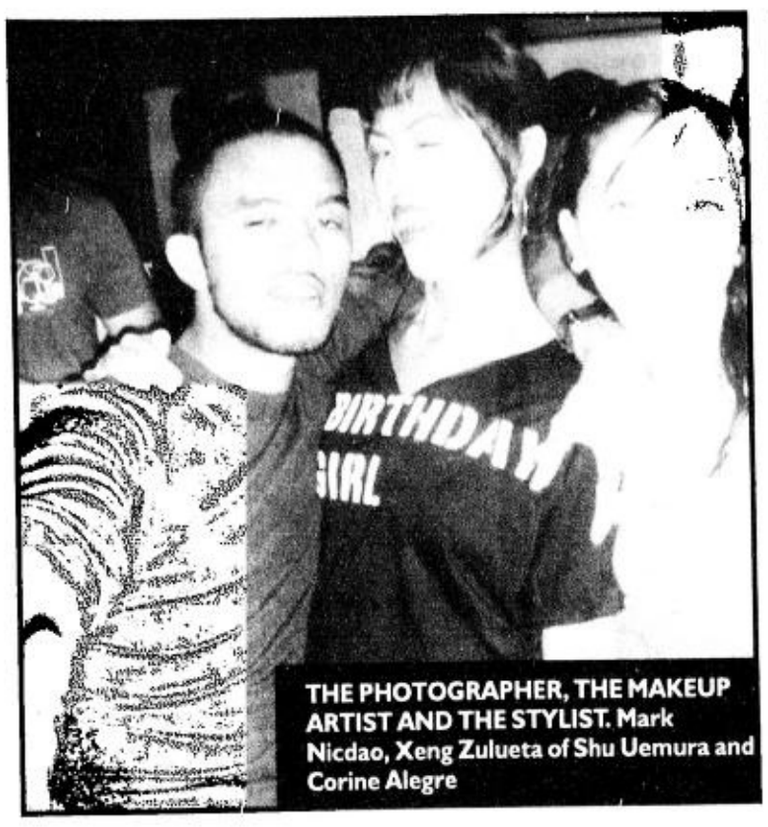


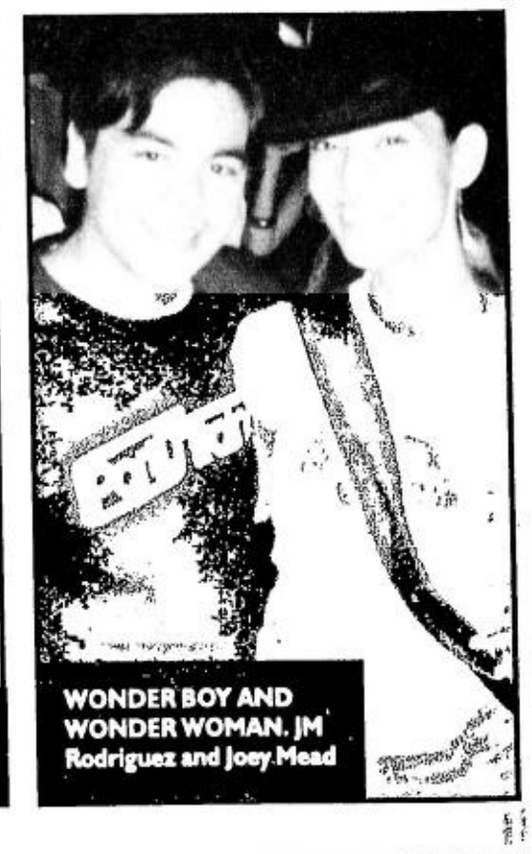
THE PHOTOGRAPHER, THE MAKEUP ARTIST AND THE STYLIST. Mark Nicdao, Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura and Corine Alegre

HOY SHU! La Pinay, Tina Tinio

THE OTHER BIRTHDAY GIRL. Shu Uemura's Tessa Dragon

SIZZLING STATEMENT. Ciara Sevilla

NOT HIS birthday! Ino Caluza



WONDER BOY AND WONDER WOMAN. JM Rodriguez and Joey Mead

What's your statement?

Text and photos by David Milan

What: Xeng Zulueta's Birthday bash at Embassy Super Club

Who: Friends and comrades in the industry

Wear: Statement Tees

Everyone dressed down to greet our birthday girl with a whole lotta statement. From tees like "Horn if you're hunky," "Tim Yap Forever," "Mabuhay!", "I rock Manila," "I'm a virgin," "Rated GP," "Milan" (*ehem, ehem*), "Wanted: Tall, Rich and Handsome" to "Heluuurr!"

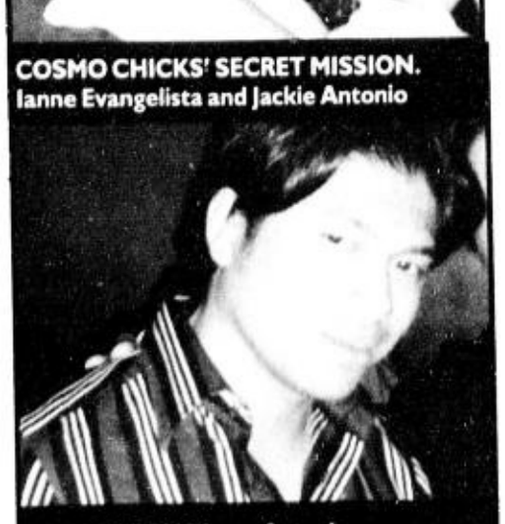
It was a night definitely filled with drinks, laughter and people looking at each other's chest... uhm, looking at each other's tees.

You, what's your statement?

MABUHAY ang mga shoppingeras! Get ready for Jenni Epperson's beach cover-ups, coming this summer from F&H

STATEMENT BROTHERS. DJ Montano and Bryanboy love each other.

COSMO CHICKS' SECRET MISSION. Ianne Evangelista and Jackie Antonio



RANCH BOY. Marco Antonio

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Supersnoop!

P. Sniffy

Six degrees of chismis

From a Pinoy Big Brother secret to the best crispy 'pata' ever

WITH THE SUCCESS OF "Brokeback Mountain," forward thinking societies all over the world have been throwing "Brokeback" parties, with cowboys, and all, in full regalia indulging in bacchanalia (rhyming, wow!).

In our shores, some people still get queasy when they view the film, labeling it as "too gay." Really, it's just a love story between two people, it's just that they're wearing cowboy hats. And one of them is blonde.

Speaking of blondes, a Super! secret source says that sometime this week, Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity edition will unveil a big "Brokeback" secret.

Brokeback... brother?

For the first time in Philippine television history, a closeted gay celebrity will reveal it all. So what's the big deal? Well, really now, these days, it's okay to be gay. What's not okay is pretending NOT to be when YOU ARE.

Another person who is said to be riding the Brokeback wave is Brad Pitt, who is reportedly looking for a gay role. We wonder what Angelina thinks about that. Although we're pretty sure she has a lot of other things on her mind—with a Brangelina spawn on the way.

No more Tom-Kat?

Another Hollywood baby that's due to arrive is TomKat Jr. but Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes seem to be too busy in their battle against Life & Style Weekly to think about baby bottles now. The magazine has been persistently printing cover stories on the couple's alleged split. And the two have been persistently denying it.

As if Tinseltown isn't waiting for enough babies—there's also Gwyneth Paltrow's—rumors are now circulating that Britney Spears might be pregnant again.

Yikes.

Sex videos—this time without Paris

Then there's Kid Rock. Kid Rock who has resurfaced from oblivion because of a sex video that has been circulating online. Oh yes, Kid Rock is very angry—he might even sue.

It seems that all these celebrity sex tapes have inspired amateurs to follow suit. What kind of world are we living in? Last Thursday's top Technorati search was "Tammy NYP," referring to a Singaporean cheerleader whose jealous rival supposedly stole her phone and uploaded dirty videos of her online. Why did she have them in the first place?

A very angry Oprah

Speaking of highly downloaded clips, did you see the one where Oprah fried James Frey, the author of "A Million Little Pieces?" Oprah was fuming mad because she fell for James Frey's lies. In one of her shows, she applauded his supposed memoirs of drug addiction, saying it kept her awake all night. She even named it as an Oprah's Book Club selection making sales of the book skyrocket. But James had fabricated the story and fictionalized his past to sell books. Sell books he did. Make Oprah mad he did too.

Kelly vs Simon, Donald vs Martha

If he could turn back time, would Simon Cowell be as nice to Kelly Clarkson as he was during American Idol's first season? According to numerous websites, the AI judge ripped into Kelly after she refused to let the contestants of AI's new season sing her songs. Simon reportedly said, "No matter how talented Kelly Clarkson is, she would not be in the position she is now without winning this show... I don't like when they walk away from the show and kind of forget the people who put her where she is today." Kelly has since relented—now contestants can sing her songs. Whoopee.

Speaking of more battles, Donald Trum and Martha Stewart are having it out over their own versions of The Apprentice. But no one really cares, right?

Eat this

In other yummier news, LUCE is now open for happy hour. You can now enjoy the best crispy *pata* ever and half-price drinks from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Check out their new menu items—Calamares, Salpicao, Shublig and Hungarian Sausage, Chicken Adobo Flakes and more. Visit Luce at Jupiter Street, Makati.

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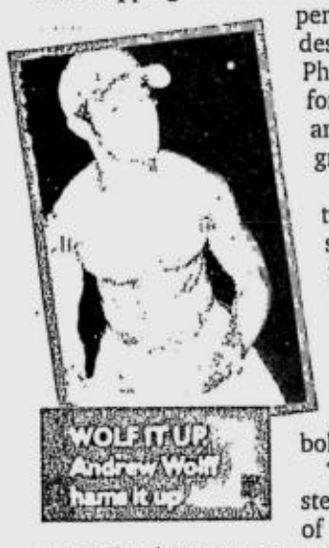
NIVEA VISAGE '06

A Bohol-icious trip to the sun

Tim Yap

I NORMALLY STAY OUT OF THE sun whenever I go to the beach. I take this time to rest and wake up during sunset to savor the night's activities. But this trip was different. The games, celebrities, and activities were just too tempting—I couldn't resist.

The annual Nivea Visage Celebrity "fun in the sun" is hands down the longest running celebrity and media gathering this sunny side of town. Now on its fourth year, it has been island-hopping all over our 7,107 islands that I personally believe it deserves a WOW! Philippines citation for Pinoy adventure and wellness program.



This fourth year took our super scene's favorite movie and TV actors, broadcast and print journalists and the industry's favorite insiders to la vie boheme Bohol!

The minute you step inside the halls of the Panglao Nature Island Resort, a sunny Nivea rep greets you with your preferred massage booking and a choice of a colored jersey to represent your celebrity game team. The teams were divided into white, blue, yellow and orange.

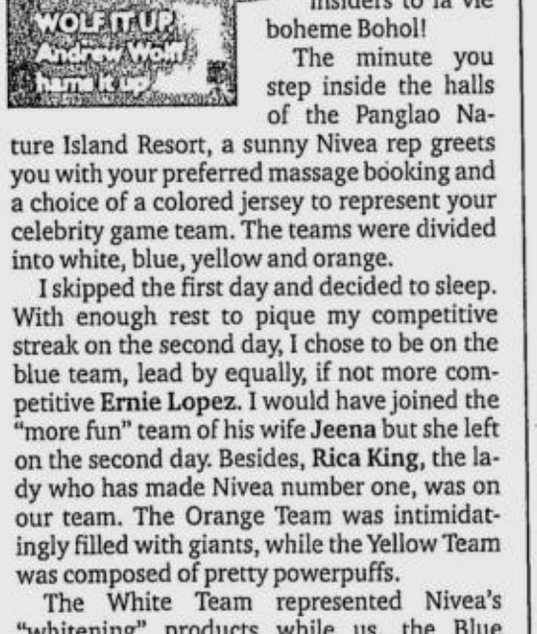
I skipped the first day and decided to sleep. With enough rest to pique my competitive streak on the second day, I chose to be on the blue team, lead by equally, if not more competitive **Ernie Lopez.** I would have joined the "more fun" team of his wife **Jeena** but she left on the second day. Besides, **Rica King,** the lady who has made Nivea number one, was on our team. The Orange Team was intimidatingly filled with giants, while the Yellow Team was composed of pretty powerpuffs.

The White Team represented Nivea's "whitening" products while us, the Blue Team, fell under the deodorant category. Why? I don't know.

Second day fun!

From the minute I woke up, it was nonstop

A BOHOL-ICIOUS/ E2



NIVEA'S SUN. Marilen Nuñez and Rica King

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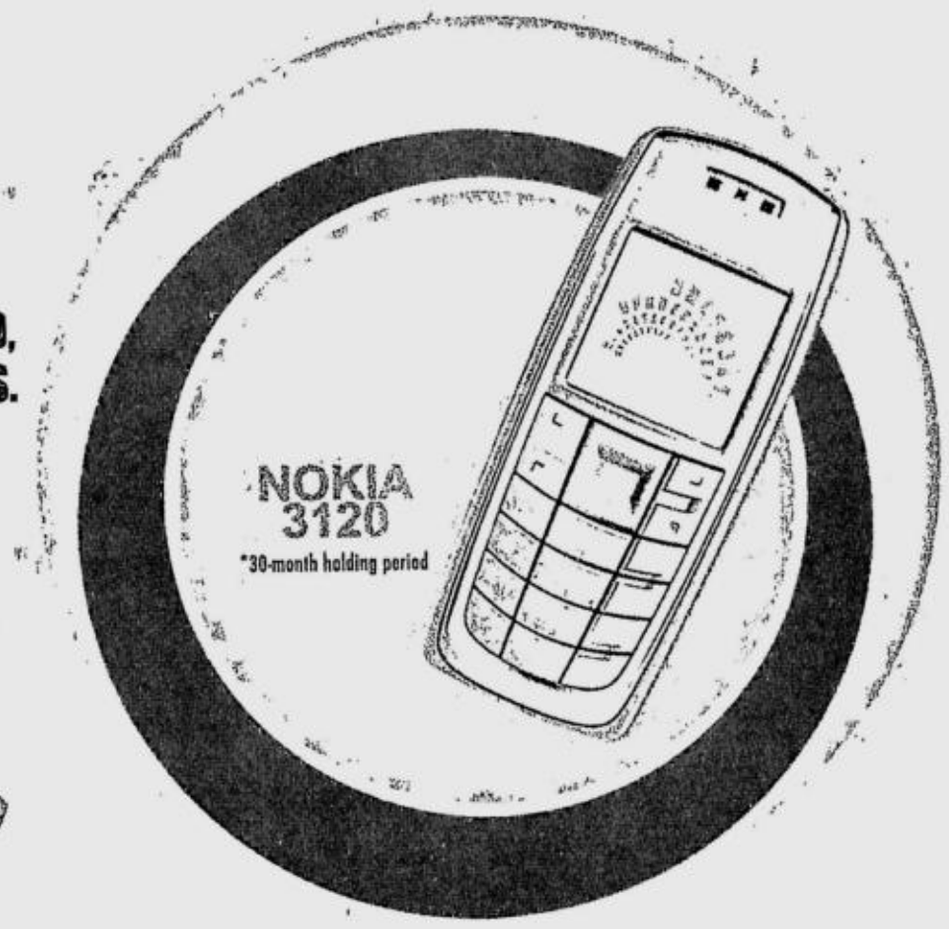

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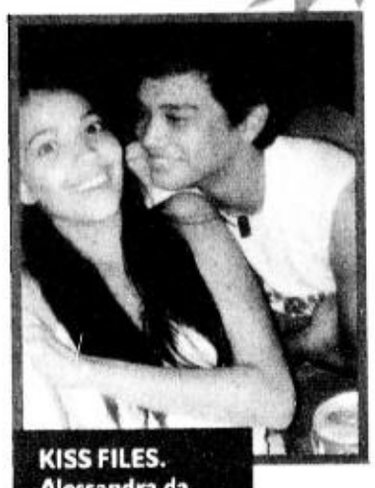
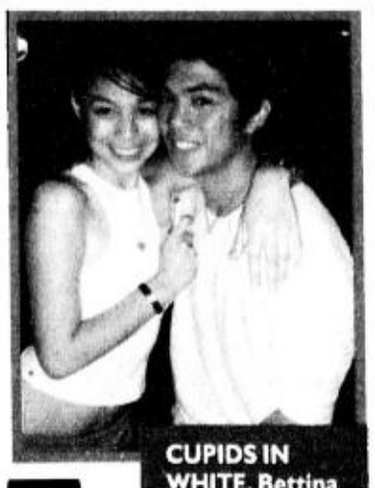

KISS FILES. Alessandra da Rossi and Jeremy Marquez


CUPIDS IN WHITE. Bettina Carlos and Rambo Nunez

JUST FRIENDS? Ava Johnson and John Estrada

LOVE TO LOVE. Alicia Mayer and Joey Marquez

BOY BAND. John Estrada, Wendell Ramos and Jomari Yllana

NIVEA VISAGE '06

A Bohol-icious trip to the sun

From page E1

sun—oops, it did rain quite a bit, but that did not stop our spirits from partaking in on the fun.

Remember we were a beach full of artists, *artistas* and *maartes* who all have huge egos. This time though, egos were placed aside and all was done in the spirit of fun, fun, fun!

There was a kayak tug of war (not as easy as it sounds) and a water polo match (where Ernie tried to score ALL the goals—tried being the operative word). He even gave us power bars to charge up into the action. Talk about amped!

I still can't forget when **Antonio Aquitania** tried to drown me in the shallow waters—but then again, we won the championship for beach water volley ball. And the treasure hunt, which was the hardest (and most fun!) part of the tourney.

The annual Nivea Visage Celebrity 'fun in the sun' is hands down the longest running celebrity and media gathering this sunny side of town

A SIGHT IN WHITE. Margaret Wilson

N-I-V-E-A Bohol!

Bohol is special to me in more ways than one. Ever since **Bea Zobel Jr.** took me on a heritage preservation tour of the place, I have fallen in love with the city famous for its tarsiers and the Chocolate Hills. That white-themed party night, Bohol's pride, the Loboc Children's Choir, serenaded all of us with their gift of song.

Collective goosebumps and costume changes after, the awards were given out. We got second place! With 2.5 points behind the Yellow Team, this trip's champion. I salute **Joey Marquez**'s gesture of donating the prize money to the Loboc Children's Choir so all of us did the same.

The night ended (actually it went on and on till we arrived back in Manila) with Bohol Star Peanuts, endless bottles of Alize and Skyy Vodka, plus great company, lots of laughs and celebrities showing their suntans and letting their hair down.

From where I was, I stared out onto the beach. The giant signage of N-I-V-E-A lit up the place, almost like a premonition of a bigger adventure next year.

NIVEA'S ANGELS. Yanee Nunez, Bubbles Paraiso and Angelu de Leon

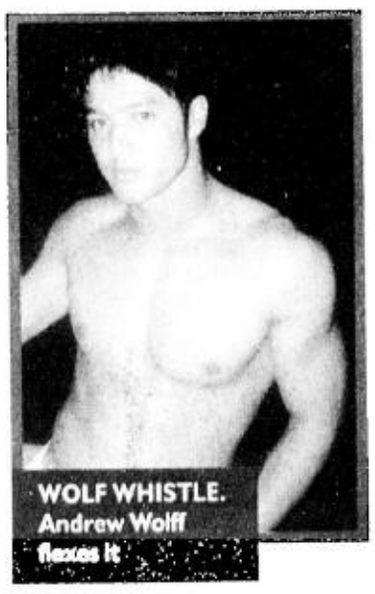
GABBY Libarios, Bianca Salonga, Trish Andres, Vicky Florendo-Montenegro, Rica King and Yonina Dizon

THE REAL WINNING TEAM. Rica King and her Nivea girls

TEAM NIVEA. Marilen Nuñez and Douglas Quijano

FRISBEE FAN. Rambo Nuñez

PARADISE FOUND. Paolo Paraiso is a proud dad to a bouncing baby boy


WOLF WHISTLE. Andrew Wolff flexes it

MIC KO TO! Luis Alandy sings, too!

BABY JAY. Watch out for Jay Aquitania

CHIKA MINUTE! Kuya Lhar Santiago chronicles the scene

BOHOL BATCH '06. Cindy Go and James Ong

BABY LOVE. Martin Nuñez and Angelu de Leon

HUNKY TONK. Antonio Aquitania at the after party

PHILIP and Fran in high spirits

SARI SARI. Lifestyle Asia's white light

MAIN MUSIC mate Archie Castillo

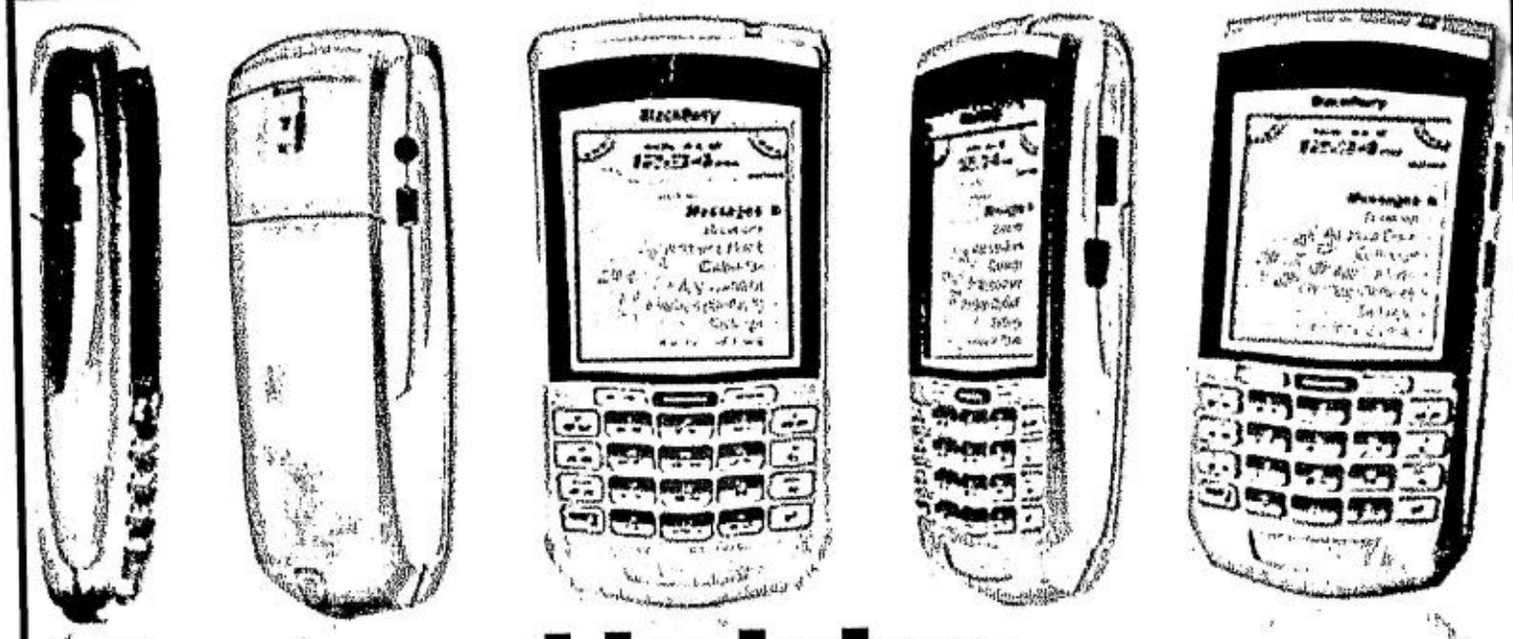
SUGO CELEBS. Ricky Gallardo and Gardo Versoza

SMILEY DUO. Bubbles Paraiso and Alfred Lopez

TEAM SPIRIT. Philip Cu-Unjieng, JR Isaac and Amiel Cabantig

BEACH BABES. Michelle Madrigal and Ava Johnson

WINNERS ALL. Jeena and Ernie Lopez with Chalk's chief Vicky Montenegro



A second helping . . .

It's like having the world in your pocket

Throwing a party?

Find the best CATERERS in the

DPC YELLOW PAGES

From page E4

page and showed her pictures of the other shoes. One time, my cousin, boyfriend and I were whipping up a midnight snack (*sisig* and fishballs—what a combination) and I used the Blackberry to find a recipe for fishball sauce. I almost burned the sauce but that cannot be blamed on the gadget.

During an intense craving for Quickly's Choco Taro Ice, we used the Blackberry and logged onto Clickthecity.com to look for its branches. And while we were in Baguio, Google searches made with the Blackberry helped us find a good hotel.

The Blackberry settled arguments as well—including one on how the late great Rene Requiestas began his show biz career. And whenever we watch movies and start wondering where we had seen this or that actor before, a quick Internet Movie Database check was all it took for our minds to be at peace again.

There's no doubt about it, the Blackberry became a good friend, a constant companion. Thanks to its e-mail, phone and Internet capabilities, I felt so connected, like I had the whole world in my pocket. There were even mornings when I'd reach out for it first, completely ignoring my mobile phone.

Still, just like in any love affair, there are little things that I wish I could change about the Blackberry. The scroll is still my good buddy, I think it's an excellent tool but I wonder how left-handed users would adjust to it. And I would really much rather have the old QWERTY keyboard which features individual buttons for every letter instead of the SureType keyboard which has QWERTY-style layout but has two letters sharing every button.

My laptop's back, I've said goodbye to the Blackberry and now it feels as though there's a big gaping hole in my pocket. I experience withdrawal symptoms—they swoop in when I least expect it. When I'm watching a movie and I see a familiar face that I can't place, when we're trying to figure out where we'll eat, when I feel the need to check my e-mail and I'm in the middle of nowhere. Traffic-plagued cab rides will never be the same again.

For inquiries regarding GlobeSolutions' Blackberry units and service, e-mail globesolutions@globetel.com.ph or please call 7301999 (landline) or 2199 using your Globe Handyphone.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

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- When I graduate from high school
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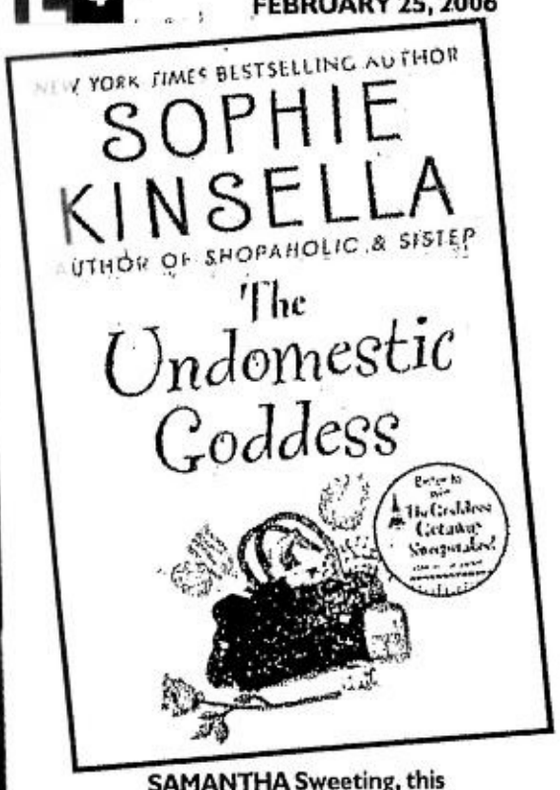


SAMANTHA Sweeting, this book's heroine couldn't part with her Blackberry for a single second.

SUPER SELECTIONS!

A second helping of Blackberry cheesecake

By Pam Pastor

I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT IT WAS FATE THAT brought me and the Blackberry 7100g together. The timing was just too perfect.

How do you explain the fact that just like the last time, the unit arrived while I was in the middle of reading a book that put the almighty Blackberry in the limelight?

Last year, it was Meg Cabot's "Every Boy's Got One" which uses Blackberry messages to tell parts of the story.

This time, it was Sophie Kinsella's "Undomestic Goddess." The book begins with hardworking heroine Samantha Sweeting trying to relax at a spa. But her workaholic tendencies kicked in and she tried to sneak her Blackberry into

Techno-lust is sweeter the second time around

the massage room. I laughed at how crazy she was, trying to send e-mails while hiding the unit under her towel. I had no idea that I would be her in just a matter of days. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The Blackberry also came during a time when my beloved laptop, my 3-year-old Compaq Presario 2515, decided to put itself in a coma and stay there. You can say that for the next few weeks, the Blackberry was the key to this e-mail junkie's sanity.

Just like the 6230, the 7100g lets you receive your e-mails anywhere, anytime, without having to sit in front of a computer or carry your laptop around. Globe's Victor Vitug helped make sure that the unit would automatically receive all my Gmail e-mails. And unlike your normal GPRS-capable mobile phone, the Blackberry pager lets your e-mails come in like text messages would.

But the 7100g does not stop at just plain old e-mails.

With its high-resolution display which supports over 65,000 colors, you can now open photo attachments and change your unit's wallpaper.

Not only can you use the 7100g for phone and e-mail functions, it also has a web browser so you can surf your favorite websites.

The Blackberry 7100g has a number of other features including an address book, a calendar, a memo pad and a task list. It is equipped with a speakerphone and Bluetooth capability for headsets and car kits and has a 32 MB memory.

Techies love rattling off specs—but for me, the greatest measure of a gadget's value is how it becomes a part of your everyday life. And the Blackberry became a big part of my life—at least for a few weeks.

Thanks to the Blackberry, I was able to approve blog comments and Friendster requests no matter where I was. Cab rides flew by quickly and the horrible traffic became my friend—it gave me more time to read my favorite websites. I tried testing the Blackberry's capabilities by loading really heavy pages—Singaporean Xiaxue's photo-heavy blog and Perez Hilton's gossip-heavy blog but they loaded quickly. The Blackberry gave up on only one site—Pink is the New Blog which really is unreasonably heavy. Even my computer browser has a hard time loading that page.

The Blackberry became a big conversation tool. One day, my lunch partner was admiring my shoes and instead of just telling her about Schu's latest collection, I opened their Multiply

A SECOND/ E3

■ SUNDAY COMICS

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A4-4
Tripping down memory lane on Edsa I with celebs who were there

■ NEWS / A2
Loyal troops still surround Ranger base

■ SIM / Q1
APO who wrote Edsa anthem disappointed, migrating to Australia

Solon, retired general arrested for conspiracy

By Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

USING A 21-YEAR-OLD WARRANT AND INVOKING President Macapagal-Arroyo's emergency edict, police yesterday arrested a retired police general on a golf course and an opposition lawmaker about to go on a picnic with his family.

The twin arrests, coming hours after police raided the offices of the Daily Tribune newspaper,

SOLON/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, February 26, 2006 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 80 P18 website: www.inq7.net

1081 or 1017? AFP chief fumbles not once but twice

By Dona Pazzibugan

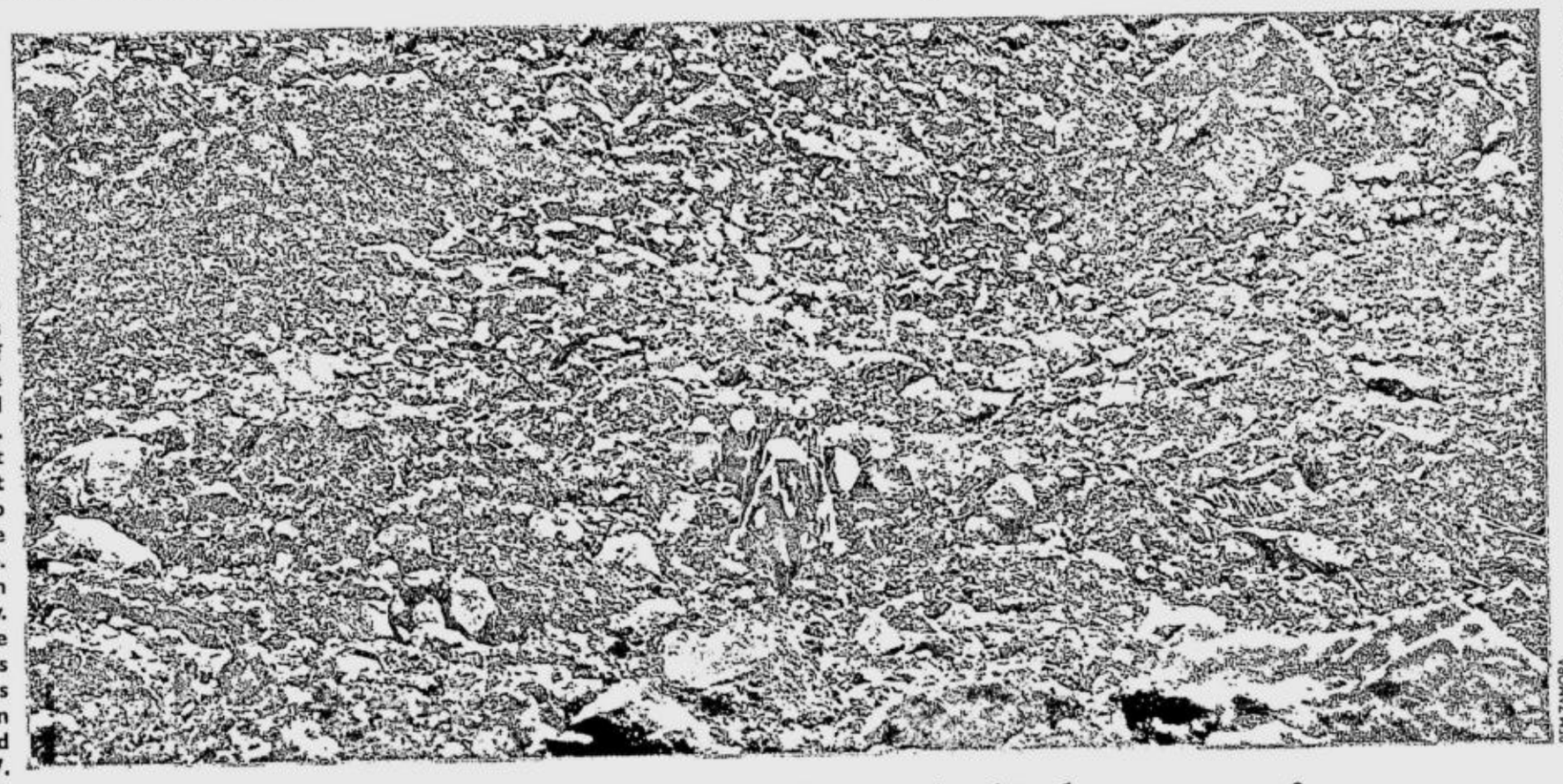
CONFUSED ABOUT whether the country is in a state of emergency under Proclamation 1081 or Proclamation 1017? You are not alone.

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo's main en-

1081/ A19

PNP chief warns media

Organizations face takeover if they don't follow 'gov't standards'



HOPES come crumbling down like the boulders across the bleak landscape of the village of Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, as the search for survivors is called off for the buried residents. Benguet miners get ready to leave the landslide site. Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias says 139 bodies have been retrieved since Feb. 17.

REM ZAMORA

By Luige A. del Puerto, Tina G. Santos and Fe Zamora

IN A BALD WARNING, the Philippine National Police yesterday said it would take over any media organization that would not follow "standards set by the government" during the state of national emergency.

A government team will examine the editorial contents of newspapers and the news or views aired by broadcast stations to see if these conform to the standards, according to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

"We will recommend [action] based on our evaluation," Lomibao said in a press conference, adding that the PNP would work in cooperation with other government agencies which he did not name.

He appointed the PNP spokesperson, Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, to serve as "liaison officer" between the media and the police.

"If they (the news groups) do not follow the standards—and the standards are if they would contribute to instability in the government, [or] if they do not subscribe to what is in General Order No. 5 and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017—we will recommend [a takeover]," Lomibao said.

The proclamation, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed on Friday, declared a state of emergency all over the country. GO No. 5 gives the police and military powers to carry out "necessary and appropriate actions and measures to suppress and prevent acts of terrorism and lawless violence."

Violations of the standards will be "left to the judgment of the [PNP] and other agencies that are empowered to implement the [GO]," Lomibao said.

They include "actions which are hurting the Philippine state by obstructing governance, including hindering the growth of

PNP/ A19

Rescuers give up on Leyte landslide survivors

By Joey A. Gabieta and Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—The search for survivors in Guinsaugon officially ended Friday night, a week after a killer mudslide reduced the barangay to mud and rubble.

Civilian and military authorities here decided to abort search and rescue operations and to have Filipino soldiers and volunteers focus on retrieving bodies.

Foreign volunteers were preparing to pull out, according to Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias. The first to go were the Spanish and Taiwanese teams.

"The Spanish started to leave even before [Friday]..." Lerias told Reuters. "The conditions are not good for their dogs because it has been raining hard."

The governor said it was a very sad and difficult decision to make because 915 people were still missing. She said the decision was based on the recommendation of experts.

As of 9 p.m. Friday, only 139 bodies had been retrieved.

"The search and rescue phase is over. The decision was reached upon the recommendation of the experts. They feel it will take a miracle to find survivors; the chances are almost zero," Lerias

RESCUERS/ A19

TOGETHER AGAIN at the Edsa Shrine, ex-Presidents Aquino and Ramos hear Mass marking the last of the four-day triumph of the Edsa I People Power revolt 20 years ago on Saturday. RAFFY LERMA

FVR slams GMA: My support waning, waning, 1017 'overkill'

By Cynthia D. Balana and Christian V. Esguerra

SAYING HIS SUPPORT FOR President Macapagal-Arroyo was "waning and waning," former President Fidel Ramos yesterday slammed the state of emergency she proclaimed as not only "precooked" but an "overkill."

Former President Corazon Aquino, for her part, stressed the need for Filipinos to keep the democracy which they fought to restore in 1986.

"What is this emergency act all about? Is it another name for martial law?" she said, when asked by reporters for her reaction to Ms Arroyo's proclamation.

Speaking at a press conference, Ramos said Ms Arroyo should have assessed the situation very carefully before making such a move.

"Before, my support for her was waning. Now it is waning and waning. It's like before it was X, now it's double X. So what is next?" he said.

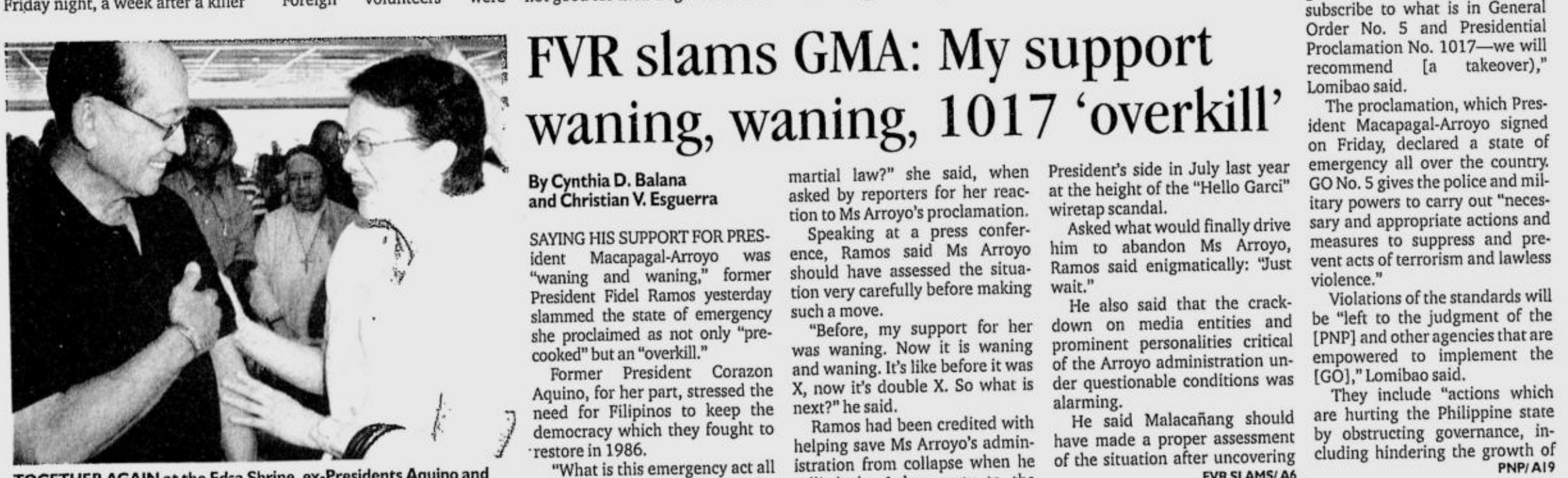
Ramos had been credited with helping save Ms Arroyo's administration from collapse when he rallied the Lakas party to the President's side in July last year at the height of the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal.

Asked what would finally drive him to abandon Ms Arroyo, Ramos said enigmatically: "Just wait."

He also said that the crackdown on media entities and prominent personalities critical of the Arroyo administration under questionable conditions was alarming.

He said Malacañang should have made a proper assessment of the situation after uncovering

FVR SLAMS/ A6



THE CHURCH

Reflections on Sin across the tables

By Bishop Socrates B. Villegas

MY FAVORITE TABLE IS THE WORKING desk of Cardinal Sin. The second table that I love the most is the big round table in the bar room.

On these two tables, Cardinal Sin undertook his mission of justice and peace. These two tables know more about the inside story of historical events in the country than any other person.

SIN/ A24

FINALLY, Palace gates swing wide open for the people after 14 years.

THE MEDIA

For a shining moment, Filipinos were invincible

By Richard Reeves
(The following is reprinted from a United Press Syndicate article in February 1986)

I WAS IN TWO CITIES, LONDON AND THEN PARIS, LAST TUESDAY, when Corazon Aquino became president of the Philippines. In London, people walking by on Brompton Road cheered when a vendor put up a new headline of the Evening Standard, "Marcos Flees." In Paris, Frenchmen and women called to each other across noisy streets: "Did you hear the news?"

"Her story is at once the most surprising succession of miracles and the most successful of political actions," wrote a Frenchman.

CORY/ A24

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/02/26/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Loyal troops surround Ranger base

By Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk,*
and Alcuin Papa and Dona Z. Pazzibugan, *in Manila*

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — LOYAL ARMY TROOPS UNder Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan have surrounded Camp Tecson, the headquarters of the Army's 1st Scout Ranger Regiment, after its former commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, was implicated in an alleged coup plot.

Palparan, the chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, said his troops had surrounded the regiment's base in San Miguel, Bulacan, since early Friday to prevent Lim's 200 men from leaving camp and supporting destabilization moves against the Arroyo administration.

Starting 11 a.m. on Saturday, Palparan said he deployed his troops around the camp. The 7th Infantry Division has two brigades and six battalions.

"They were just [sent to] various locations [nearby] to resume counterinsurgency work but they're easy to consolidate in case of a coup attempt," Palparan said of his other forces.

He said the tension at Camp Tecson had eased by Saturday.

The elite Scout Ranger unit is now headed by Col. Raymundo Ramones.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said Lim would not face court-martial automatically. He would first be investigated, Senga said.

"He is restricted to his quarters [at Fort Bonifacio]. He'll be one of those investigated so that the appropriate legal action will be taken," the AFP chief replied when asked if Lim was being treated as a coup plotter.

Senga said it was up to the Army to investigate Lim since he belonged to that unit.

Lim was placed by the Philippine Army under house arrest yesterday and transferred to Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

PALPARAN

Army spokesperson Maj. Bartolome Bacarro said Lim would be investigated for possible violation of the Articles of War pertaining to rebellion, as well as other general provisions.

"We would like to confirm the report that General Lim is now under the custody of the Philippine Army. General Lim is under the custody of Gen. (Army commanding general Hermogenes) Esperon," Bacarro said.

Bacarro added that Lim was not in a cell and would be allowed to receive visitors subject to the rules set forth by the Army leadership.

"The purpose of subjecting General Lim to the custody of the Philippine Army is for him to be available during the conduct of the investigation," he said.

Lim, a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, was a founding member of the Young Officers' Union (YOU) that launched the 1989 coup against then President Corazon Aquino.

The other day, Lim withdrew support from the administration and the chain of command and was about to lead his troops in antigovernment rallies.

He was relieved of his command Thursday night and promptly taken into military custody.

Bacarro said that Army investigators were looking for other officers and soldiers who were supposed to join Lim.

Senga denies discussing withdrawal of support

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Generoso Senga insisted yesterday he never talked to ex-Army chief Fortunato Abat or to other Arroyo critics about withdrawing support from the Commander in Chief during the days leading to the declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday.

Senga maintained in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER that he never entertained overtures for him to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Abat was trying to get in touch with me. I totally ignored him," he said, denying an INQUIRER report quoting Abat as saying that Senga had been "receptive" to a dialogue with the retired general's group.

"I have not talked to anybody and I have no intention to talk to them," Senga said.

The INQUIRER had quoted unidentified sources as saying that on the eve of the planned Edsa rallies last Friday, Senga was informed by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim about their plan to march with anti-Arroyo forces. The sources said Senga was "initially open" to the idea of a military withdrawl of support from Ms Arroyo but changed his mind after Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon talked him out of it.

"That's crazy," Senga said. "I deny that emphatically. There was no need for Esperon to convince me to do anything. I'm emphatic about this. I've never wavered in my commitment to my oath of office."

He added: "My service commanders take instructions from me. I'm the one giving instructions."

Senga relieved Lim, one of the founders of the defunct rebel group Young Officers Union (YOU), as head of the Army's 1st Scout Rangers Regiment and placed him "under custody" late Thursday night after their meeting.

Senga still would not divulge what "issues affecting the Armed Forces" he discussed with Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin, another ex-YOU rebel, in his office at Camp Aguinaldo that night.

He admitted they talked about "restiveness within their ranks," but insisted Lim "never tried to convince me to join a coup attempt."

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INVITATION TO BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

The Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc. through its Division Disposal Committee (DDC), invites interested buyers to bid for the purchase of the following motor vehicle units on an "as is-where is" basis at various locations, to wit:

ROUTE TRUCKS	SERVICE VEHICLES	MAKE/TYPE	LOCATION	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT NUMBER
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57	85	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Isuzu, Hino, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Suzuki	CCBPI Plants in: San Fernando, Carlatan, Ilocos, Calasiao, Ilagan CCBPI Sales Offices: Echague, Solano Baguio, Iba, Tarlac, Cauan, Malololos, San Jose, Tuguegarao	Ronald Dizon (Area Transportation Head) Angelito Dizon (MRS)	045-9612628 to 29
155	216	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Isuzu, Hino, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Honda, Kia, Daihatsu, Mazda	CCBPI Plants in: Manila, Sta. Rosa 1 Sta. Rosa 2 CCBPI Sales Offices: Mendiola, Northbay Sta. Rosa, Quezon City, Taytay, Makati Meycauayan Ext., Tanza, Dasmarinas, Bagumbayan, CBC Antipolo, Pasig Lagro, Las Piñas, Malabon, San Mateo	Diony Galona (Area Transportation Head) Gilbert Peduche (MRS)	870-2000 870-2183
14	22	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Hino, Isuzu, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Toyota, Kawasaki	CCBPI Plants in: Cebu, Tacloban Tagbilaran, Bacolod, Iloilo CCBPI Sales Offices: Guindulman, Dumaguete	Peter Grefiel (Area Transportation Head) Jun Peñalosa (Materials Resource Supr)	032-348-9000
46	60	Sedan, L300 van, Single/Crew Cab, Utility van Nissan, Isuzu, Hino, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, Honda, Kawasaki, Toyota	CCBPI Plants in: Davao, Gen. Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga CCBPI Sales Offices: Bajada, Opol, Butuan, Dipolog, Malaybalay, Marbel, Digos, Ulas, Iligan, Tagum, Ozamis, Kidapawan, Basilan, Pagadian	Edmund Montaño (Area Transportation Head) Peter Batuhan (MRS)	082-2211102 to 06

Interested parties may view the Disposal Guidelines/Requirements and the Surplus Vehicle Master List, containing the following details: make, series, model, model year, plate number,bid floor price as posted in the above-mentioned locations. Interested parties may secure copies of the Bid Form from any of the Plant Material Resource Supervisors (MRS), upon payment of the **PhP1,000.00** non-refundable bidding fee. This will be deductible from the winning bids.

Bids in triplicate copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Plant MRS **on or before 5:00 pm of March 15, 2006.** The clock at the plant gate guard's station shall serve as the basis for the official time of the deadline for submission. Winning bidders will be informed through telephone, mail or email to expedite pull-out and ownership transfer. All sales will be transacted on **cash basis.**

CCBPI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not to award the sale at any time prior to the awarding sale, without incurring any liability to the concerned bidder/s. The Company likewise assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) Ronllo Armand S. Sarmiento
AVP & Logistics Manager

(PDI-Feb. 26, 2006)

PDI columnist sees inequity in arrests first-hand

ACADEMIC RANDY DAVID, WHO WAS ONE of the ralliers arrested immediately after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared a state of national emergency the other day, said he was thankful the police "made the mistake" of arresting him.

David, a University of the Philippines professor and columnist for the INQUIRER, said his brief detention at Camp Karingal in Quezon City on Friday make him see "for the first time with my own eyes how we treat the poor in our society."

David, Akbayan president Ronald Llamas and lawyer Argee Guevarra were arrested while leading a group of marchers on Edsa on Friday. The three were charged with illegal assembly and inciting to sedition but were later released.

David noted that while he and his companions were made to wait inside an air-conditioned room while their case was being processed, at least 80 people, including minors, who had been arrested earlier for a traffic violation, were being held at the camp's firing range.

He said he was embarrassed that there were at least 20 lawyers, including three senators, who showed up to help his group while "the men, women and children on three passenger jeeps from Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, did not have a single lawyer to help them."

Had he not been arrested, he would not have known of the predicament of the 80 who were arrested in various parts of Quezon City for riding in passenger jeepneys charged with "out-of-line violations," David told reporters at a press briefing called by the Akbayan party-list group.

He was told the group was on its way to the People Power Monument at Edsa.

"It was only after we were about to leave at about 7:30 p.m. that were asked if we could help with their release," David said.

Luckily, lawyer Eric Mallonga, a child rights defender, was at the camp and was able to help the group. A social worker from the social welfare department also showed up to help with the minors, he said.

David said he was disappointed at how the group was treated. *Nancy Carvajal*

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In S Leyte, search on rescuers' minds, not coup

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

GUINSAUGON, ST. BERNARD, Southern Leyte—Reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo had declared a state of national emergency after the military said it had foiled a coup attempt against the Arroyo administration were slow to register among Filipino soldiers at the site of the landslide that buried this village a week ago.

They remained focus on one task—retrieving the dead buried deep in the mud and mapping out the terrain in the hope that they would find a survivor.

As rescuers braved the rains to keep the search going, the report of a coup was discussed in passing and immediately rejected by the more than 500 Filipino soldiers and policemen involved in the rescue operation.

"Look around here. We are united in our effort to help our brothers. We would not be disturbed (by talks of coup attempts). We will continue our search and rescue operation," said Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, the overall ground commander of the rescue effort.

Ramos said that he and his men in the Army's 8th Infantry Division also remained steadfast in their support for the military chain of command.

"My position is to stay within the chain of command. This is not the time to destroy the well-being of the Filipinos," said Ramos.

He said the military should not be involved in partisan politics.

"We adhere to our oath as professional soldiers. I and the 8ID will abide by the Constitution," he said.

Maj. Neneveigh Alcovindas, of the civil relations unit based in Tacloban City, stressed that all the officials and members of the 8th ID under Ramos were firmly behind the Commander-in-Chief.

"We will follow the chain of command. The entire 8th ID still recognizes the President as our commander in chief. The declaration (of a state of emergency) is not our focus and we are not affected by it," Alcovindas said.

Ramos said his primary concern was to continue with the work of locating and retrieving those still under the mud, the more than 200 schoolchildren and teachers of the Guinsaugon Elementary School.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rose Lerias commended the rescuers for their determination in continuing the search.

"Actually the very touching part is that the rescuers know, all of us know, that it is a very high-risk job, and the dangers they are exposed to. But in spite of that, they still have strong determination to push through," Lerias said.

With a report from Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

MESSAGES

In behalf of the PCCP Execom, Organizing Committee, 12 Councils and College membership, I would like to invite you to attend the 25th Annual Chest Convention of the Society come February 26 to March 3, 2006

The silver edition of the Annual Chest Convention showcases a wide array of interesting topics and equally brilliant foreign and local speakers.

The theme, "PCCP on the SILVERSCREEN: *Prequels, Premieres and Previews*" puts into focus the many milestones in the field of pulmonary medicine both in the past and at present and what awaits us in the future

With a film festival in mind for the social events and over-all convention theme, watch us converge the science of medicine and the art of tri-media into a programme that is intellectually stimulating and psycho-socially invigorating and exciting.

Expect to be informed, updated, dazzled and captivated.

Catch-up on the BEST, the BRIGHTEST and the BRAND-NEW. PCCP promises to give you all these and more.

Come and join us next year.

Mabuhay!

MARILYN ONG-MATEO, MD, FPCCP
President, PCCP

2006 is a banner year for the PCCP. It marks the Silver (25th) Anniversary of the Annual Chest Convention. With the theme "PCCP on the SILVERSCREEN: PREQUELS, PREMIERES AND PREVIEWS", it puts into macro-perspective the base concepts - what is OLD and GOLD, the present STATE-of-the-ART and WHAT LIES BEYOND in the diagnosis and management of the more common pulmonary disorders and diseases.

An action-oriented, power-packed theme harnessed by long years of committed service to the College come together to bring forth a long haul of activities highlighted by some of the best international and local speakers, personalities and celebrities.

The impact of the collective action of the Scientific Committee, headed by Dr. Mancar Limpin, lies in new approaches to controversial issues though Debates, BYOC (Bring Your Own Case) and CYR (Clinical Year in Review) sessions along with the usual plenary sessions, convention symposia and industry-sponsored breakfast and luncheon symposia. It is indeed a fiesta of great minds coming together to make the programme truly special.

Expect to be awed by an array of film-festival highlights. Socials Chair, Dr Imee Mateo, aims to make the 3-day social event the epicenter of glittering galas.

Participants and attendees have so much to look forward to in 2006.

It is a daunting task but we have all geared up early on to make the Silver Convention a memorable one. Join us in this monumental quest to succeed!

See you all at Edsa Shangri-La on February 26 to March 3, 2006!

GRACITA RIGONAN-RAMOS, MD, FPCCP
Overall Chair, 25th Annual Chest Convention

SYLVIA BANAYTANG, MD, FPCCP
Co-Chair, 25th Annual Chest Convention

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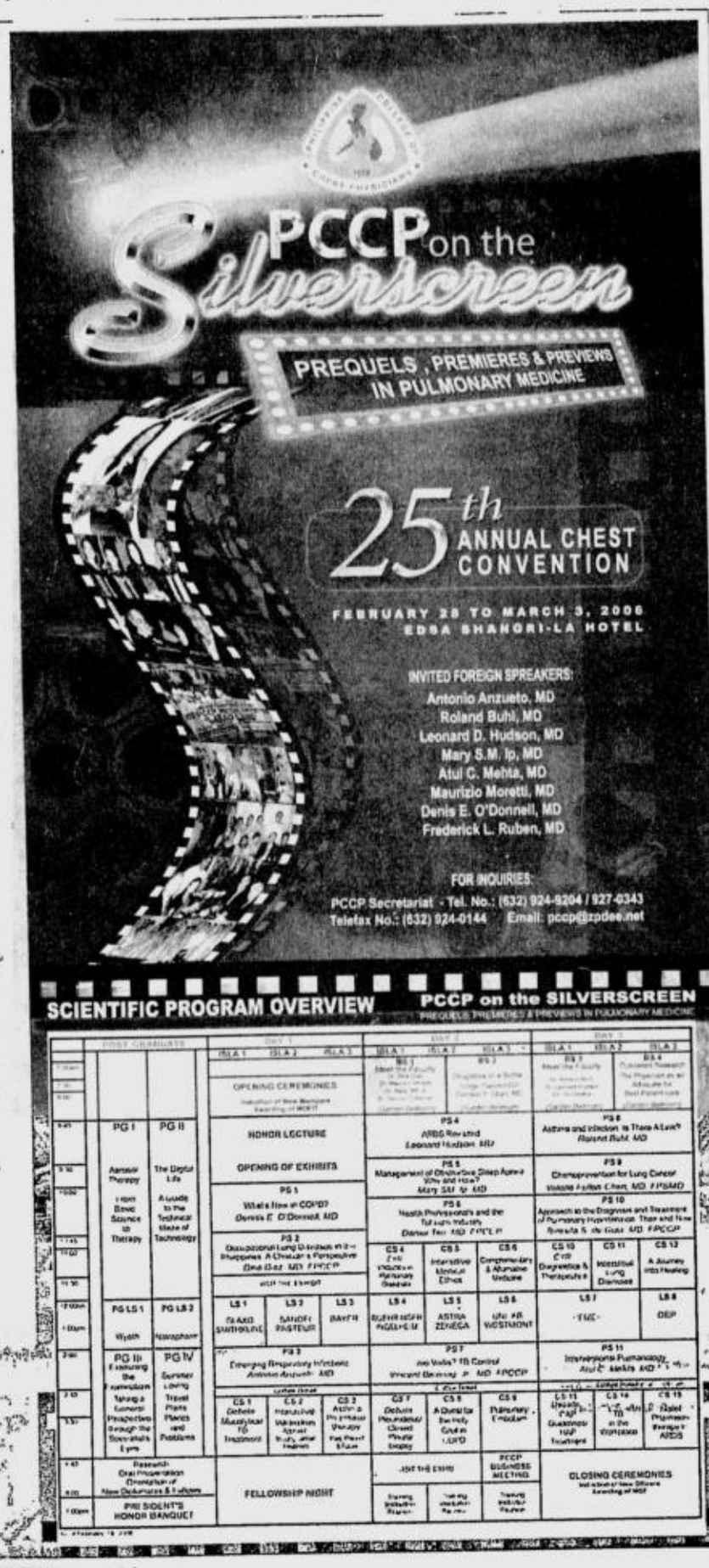

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   b. Business Registration
   c. Business Permit
   d. BIR/VAT Certificate
   e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   f. List of Clients for a period of three (3) years if applicable
2. Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for bid documents during the pre-bid conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal most advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline for submission of requirements–March 10, 2006.

(Sgd.) GABRIEL A. TORDESILLAS
General Manager

(PDI – Feb. 26 & March 3, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BACS)

Telefax: 636-6542
Direct Line: 633-9343
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2094
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation for Bids

ICB No. TEEP-03-05-READERS
IFB No.: TEEP-READERS-03-05

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the World Bank, toward the cost of the Textbooks and Instructional Materials Category under the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Readers for Beginners in English and Filipino for Grade 1.
2. The Department of Education (DepED) now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the **printing and delivery** of the following Readers for Beginners to DepED Central Office and Division Offices under TEEP

Lot No.	Item No.	Subject	Total (in copies)
		English	
1	1	Happy Home	425,207
	2	A Day on the Farm	425,207
	3	You and Me	425,207
		Filipino	
	4	Masaya Tayo	425,207
	5	Masayang Bakasyon	425,207
	6	Masaya Kung Sama-Sama	425,207
		Grand Total	2,551,242

Estimated Printing and Delivery Completion Period: 60 calendar days. Indicative printing and delivery dates: May to June 2006

3. A margin of preference shall be granted to Readers for Beginners manufactured in Purchaser's country for purposes of bid price comparison only. All the items shall be bid out and awarded as one lot.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the Bidding Documents at DepED Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Room 508, 5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting **February 27, 2006**. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph** or call DepED – PS at Telephone No. 636-65-43 or Fax No. 636-65-42.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon submission of a written application to the address given above and payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php 4,000.00 or US$72.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check, or certified check. The Bidding Documents may be sent by mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on **March 15, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address stated in paragraph 6 not later than 10:00 a.m. on **April 11, 2006** the date and time of the bid opening. A bid security shall be required equivalent to not less than 2.5% of the bid price, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, date and time indicated in the Bidding Documents.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR
BAC Vice-Chairperson

(PDI- Feb. 26 & March 5, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-66-26 to 29 • (632) 929-62-52
929-66-20 • 929-66-33 to 35 • 929-70-41 to 43

Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMPII)

Request for Expressions of Interest

The Republic of the Philippines thru the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has received a loan from the World Bank and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the Conduct of a Socio-Economic Baseline Study for the Second Land Administration and Management Project (LAMPII).

The project aims to accelerate the process of land administration reform and apply the lessons of LAMPI in selected regions, provinces and municipalities to support the progressive expansion of tenure security and the adoption of approved valuation standards and procedures through sustainable partnership agreements.

The services will include technical assistance in establishing a socio-economic baseline of LAMPII"s Land Tenure Security Component, particularly, the titling activities in the province of Leyte. The study will involve **scanning the social and environment issues in the areas** to ensure that the project design is responsive to the needs of the stakeholders and that project activities do not have negative social and environmental impact, and **collection of baseline data in the expansion sites** in Leyte for future measurement of the impacts of the tenure security component. The services of about four months is expected to commence by May 2006.

The DENR now invites eligible consultancy firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must submit information and documents indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*, May 2004.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 08.00-17:00 hrs.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by March 13, 2006, 16:00 hrs.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Undersecretary Demetrio L. Ignacio, Chairman BAC-FAPS
Attention : BAC-FAPS Secretariat, FASPO
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City 1100 PHILIPPINES
Tel: (632) 926-2689; 926-8065
Fax (632) 926-8065

(Sgd.) DEMETRIO L. IGNACIO, JR.
Undersecretary and Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee for
Foreign Assisted Projects

(PDI-Feb 26, 2006)

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8 Vicente P Alde Jr
9 Charisse Amor G Alegre
10 Nimrod G Alejandrino
11 Anza L Alih
12 Ednalyn Y Almine
13 Reinhard Bryan G Amores
14 Carla Jean F Amorin
15 Jhonasil P Antopina
16 Cheryl S Arangull
17 Liezl C Ardonio
18 Marjorie Joe L Arenas
19 Krishna S Arroz
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52 Ma Ayesha E Diango
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Papal nuncio named

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI's envoy in Baghdad is leaving Iraq to serve the pontiff in the Philippines.

Monsignor Fernando Filoni, who also has been serving as papal nuncio to Jordan, was posted in Baghdad as part of the Vatican's diplomatic corps in January 2001.

The Vatican's announcement Saturday of Filoni's new posting in Manila made no mention of who would replace him in Baghdad.

A month ago, when a car bomb exploded outside the Vatican's mission in Baghad, Filoni said fanatics and extremists were trying to scare the small Christian community in Iraq. Filoni also described suicide bomb attacks late last year in Jordan as an extension of the violence in Iraq.

The new posting takes the 59-year-old Italian to the Southeast Asian country with the largest number of Catholics. *AP*

'Emergency' could delay gov't, MILF peace talks

By Nash B. Maulana and Jeoffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY – PEACE TALKS BETWEEN the government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) may be delayed anew due to President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent declaration of a state of national emergency, senior MILF leaders said yesterday.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said they were expecting a delay in the resumption of the formal peace talks as the Arroyo administration would be busy addressing the threats against the government.

"But I suppose the peace talks would go on," he said.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF peace negotiator, said they expect the declaration of the state of emergency to affect the schedule of the peace talks.

But Iqbal said the declaration would certainly not derail the peace process because it was not issued against them.

"We are not worried but we have concerns," he said.

Government chief negotiator Silvestre Afable, however, said the government would pursue the peace negotiations as scheduled.

Formal negotiations between the government and MILF were set to resume in March.

Afable said he was certain the two parties would reach a final peace agreement by September, or six months from the start of the talks.

Asked what was in store for the MILF after the talks, Afable said: "It would be a powerful political entity in which the Bangsamoro will be given all (local) powers, although it will still be under national laws and the Constitution."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 26, 2006
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hosea 2:16-17, 21-22
God's love for Israel

So I am going to allure her,
lead her once more into the desert,
where I can speak to her tenderly.
Then I will give back her vineyards,
make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she will answer me as in her youth,
as when she came out of the land of Egypt.
You will be my spouse forever,
betrothed in justice and integrity;
we will be united in love and tenderness.
I will espouse you in faithfulness
and you will come to know Yahweh.

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:1-6
A letter of Christ

Am I again commending myself? Or do I need to present to you letters of recommendation as some do; or should I ask you for those letters? You are the letter. This letter is written in your inner self, yet all can read and understand it. Yes, who could deny that you are Christ's letter written by us—a letter written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, carved not in slabs of stones, but in hearts of flesh.

This is how we are sure of God, through Christ. As for us, we would not dare consider that something comes from us: our ability comes from God. He has even enabled us to be ministers of a new covenant no longer depending on a written text but on the Spirit. The written text kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Gospel: Mark 2:18-22
New wine into fresh wineskins

One day, when the disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were fasting, some people asked Jesus, "Why is it that both the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but yours do not?" Jesus answered, "How can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. But the day will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them and on that day they will fast.

No one sews a piece of new cloth on an old coat, because the new patch will shrink and tear away from the old cloth, making a worse tear. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the wine would burst the skins and then both the wine and the skins would be lost. But new wine, new skins!"

Commentary

God is always seeking us out to draw us back to Him, to lead us and speak to our hearts. But we wander and do not respond. And still God wants to be intimate with us, bound to us in love and mercy, in justice forever, so that we will know God. This is our true nature.

Paul reminds us that we are God's love letters written in the Spirit for all to read. And Jesus tries in vain to tell us that we are the guests at a wedding feast with God. We are to live rejoicing, feasting on this intimacy with God. There will come a day when we must fast and we lose the presence of Jesus, but until that day comes, there is a freshness and a life in the world that is new and holy.

We have this presence. Listen, eat, drink and rejoice.

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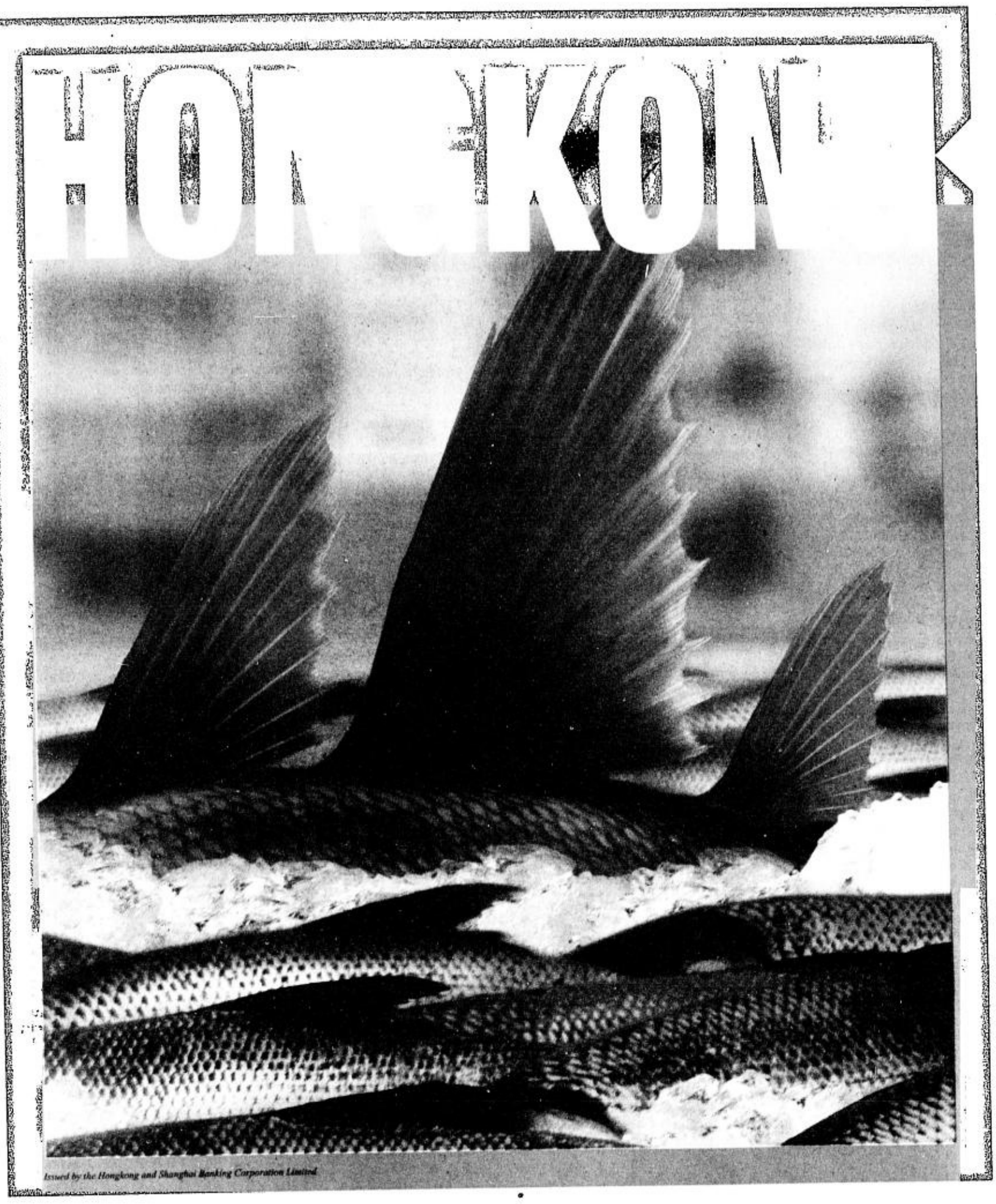

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Solon, retired general arrested for conspiracy

From page A1

appalled critics of Ms Arroyo, who denounced the crackdown as reminiscent of the dark days of martial law.

Leftist Rep. Crispin Beltran, of the Anakpawis party-list group, and retired Philippine Constabulary chief Gen. Ramon Montano were the first to feel the sting of Ms Arroyo's General Order No. 5 issued to the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police directing them to suppress terrorism and lawless violence.

Satur escapes

Another police unit wanted to arrest Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo but narrowly missed him when they went to pick him up at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City, where Ocampo and other congressmen were lambasting at a news conference Ms Arroyo's emergency proclamation.

Malacañang defended the arrests as part of ongoing efforts to go after eight to 10 people supposedly part of an unholy alliance of politicians, military adventurists and communist rebels plotting to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

Arrest list to be expanded

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the wanted list could be expanded later.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao indicated that former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who had been involved in several failed coup attempts in the late 1980s, was among the targets.

Beltran and his family were driving out of San Francisco Homes subdivision in Bulacan at about 10 a.m. when a police team carrying long firearms cut into their path, the 73-year-old congressman's wife Rosario said.

Beltran mad

"Four cops went out (of their car) and invited my husband. My husband protested that what they were doing was not right," Rosario added.

"He was very mad," she said.

There were seven people in the family car, including Beltran's 15-year-old grandson. None of them was hurt, Rosario said.

When Beltran agreed to go to Camp Crame, two of the four officers rode in the family car.

It was only at Camp Crame that Beltran was showed an arrest warrant—dated Oct. 7, 1985—which was issued in connection with a charge of inciting to rebellion, Rosario said. At the time, Beltran was an official of the union group Kilusang Mayo Uno.

Old case

"They're trying to revive an old case (to get him). But the case no longer exists," she said.

"Clearly, this is an act of harassment and persecution ... There seems to be a massive and indiscriminate illegal arrest of progressive personalities who are believed to be (critical) of the present government," said Romeo Capulong, Beltran's lawyer.

Capulong said the 1985 case had already been dismissed by a judge and that it was among the political cases quashed during the Cory Aquino revolutionary government.

He said he was told that the decision to release or detain Beltran was Lomibao's alone.

Part of conspiracy

"This is also an act of obstruction of legislative proceedings, because he is in the performance of his duty as a duly elected party-list congressman," said Capulong.

Police said Beltran and Montano were arrested on the strength of Ms Arroyo's Government Order No. 5.

"The evidence so far gathered is that they are part of a conspiracy to commit rebellion, so this is the basis for their arrest," Lomibao said.

Montano said on the phone that he was with his wife and several golf mates at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, when a swarm of CIDG men arrived.

'They're going wild'

"They want me to go to Camp Crame ... to answer some charges against me," he said. "I wanted to resist, but I got afraid."

Chuckling on the phone, Montano said he also "invited" his golf mates to go with him.

Montano had been playing golf with another retired police general, Rex Piad, sparking rumors Piad was also taken in. Police denied this, saying Piad just wanted to "escort" Montano.

"The situation is getting very bad. Because we are not afraid to criticize this government, now they want to lock us up," Montano said. "They are no longer following the Constitution. This is the last straw. They are going wild."

He added: "They are arresting old men. I'm 69."

Leave thru backdoor

Police who went to Sulo to get Ocampo apparently did not notice the congressman as he left the place. The lawmen instead went after the congressman's backup vehicle and took his driver and an aide into custody. The two were released later.

Lawyer Neri Colmenares tried to stop the policemen by blocking their car's path.

Hearing that police had come to get Ocampo, other lawmakers who attended the press conference—Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales and their respective staff—retreated to the hotel's basement and left through the backdoor.

Lomibao said the arrests were in line with GO No. 5 and were "not whimsical and arbitrary."

Plotters still out there

He said the military had effectively crushed the plot against the government "but some people responsible for it are still out there."

"If in our judgement anybody, group or business establishment, will contribute to the exacerbation of the national emergency, we will carry out whatever [action] is reasonable, necessary and appropriate."

Lomibao nodded when asked if Honasan was on the wanted list. He again nodded when asked if Honasan was at the top of the list.

Defensor said it was the National Security Council which made the final decision on who to arrest.

Defensor refused to say who would be arrested in the coming days.

He said that Ocampo and Beltran were on the arrest list not only because of their complicity in the plot to topple the administration but also because of murder cases filed by relatives of former comrades in arms killed by fellow communists.

Defensor refused to say how long the state of national emergency would be in effect but he did not expect to see the lifting of Proclamation No. 1017 any time soon. *With a report from PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

JDV seeks dignified treatment for Beltran

SEEKING TO QUELL A firestorm, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday pledged to seek assurances from the military and police that lawmakers arrested under the emergency proclamation would receive "dignified and humane treatment."

"I will seek the highest assurances that their human rights are protected and respected," De Venecia said after meeting with House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and three other congressmen.

The meeting produced four points of agreement.

One involves a proposal for a protocol by which the future arrest of any House member would have to be coursed through the Speaker and the minority leader.

De Venecia said the House would also make available legal assistance to any member facing arrest.

They also agreed that no congressman would be arrested while Congress is in session, as provided for in the Constitution for offenses punishable by six years' imprisonment or less.

For offenses involving punishment longer than six years, De Venecia said House members must respect the Constitution but they must have assurances that they would be treated with dignity.

Local execs back emergency rule

MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT executives and youth leaders have thrown their full support behind President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of national emergency, and called on her to apply the full force of the law on the suspected destabilizers to preserve peace and order, ensure public safety and crush all threats to national security.

In a press statement, they also appealed to former President Corazon Aquino and other key opposition personalities to remain true to the democratic ideals of Edsa I instead of allowing themselves to be unwittingly used by renegade soldiers and extremist elements in the opposition who are out to grab power.

The Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines led by its president, Vincent Piccio III, secretary general Santiago Cane Jr., and chairman Allan Zulueta said: "The PBMLP is committed to stand by the President and recognizes her as the duly elected legal and only President of the country until 2010. We are absolutely for the rule of law and are committed to abide by the provisions of the Philippine Constitution."

State has to defend itself

Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan said, "It is the legitimate right of the state to defend itself against those who seek to destroy the constitutional order and to safeguard the general welfare and public safety. The full force of the law must be employed against those who plot against the duly constituted authority."

"We denounce and condemn all extra and unconstitutional process of changing the present government," the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines (VMLP) led by its national president, Mandaluyong City Vice Mayor Jesus Cruz, said in a resolution.

Among those who signed the VMLP resolution were Vice Mayors Alvin Fernandez of Dagupan City, VMLP executive vice president; Carlos Baylon of Daraga, Albay, vice president for Luzon; Renecito Novero of Bacolod City, vice president for the Visayas; Allan Rellon of Tagum City, vice president for Mindanao, and Ronald Carcillar of Poro Cebu, secretary general.

Youth support

The youth expressed support for the President and have urged all sectors to adhere to the principles of the Constitution.

"The National Movement of Young Legislators urges all citizens to abide by the mandate of the Constitution for the safety of our people and posterity. We join in the call for sobriety and national cohesion," NMYL national president Julian Coseteng said.

Local officials across the country also expressed dismay at efforts by some rogue elements in Manila to topple the government at a time when the nation is on the verge of an economic takeoff.

"We appeal to our brothers in the military to please think of our country first, especially now that our economy is taking off. We also appeal to former President Cory Aquino to help preserve and protect our democracy which we all fought for in Edsa," said Antique Gov. Sally Zaldivar-Perez, chairperson of the Regional Development Council for Western Visayas.

The Philippine Councilors League (PCL) led by its national chair, Elmer Datuin and national president Carlo Pontico Fortuna said the Filipino people will end up the victims instead of the victors in such attempts to change the government through extraconstitutional means.

Don't be misled

In a resolution, the PCL stated: "We call on our people not to be misled by the rebels' cause because the means they use to accomplish these is strongly opposed to our democratically held principles of peace and nonviolence. The attempt is plain and simple power grab where our Filipino people are not the victors but rather the victims."

More local government executives also said the foiled coup in Manila instigated by some misguided members of the military not reflect the sentiments of the people in the countryside, whose main concern is for President Arroyo to lead the nation on the path to economic prosperity and for them to reap the benefits of such efforts.

"We are not happy with what is going out there in Manila because we in the outskirts are doing our best to help uplift our country. Now that our country's economy is starting to improve, the people in Manila are doing nothing but pull the country apart," said Camiguin Gov. Pedro Romualdo, who was vice chair for Mindanao of the Consultative Commission on Constitutional Amendments.

Also municipalities

Also among those who have come out to express their support for President Arroyo and her declaration of a state of national emergency are executive members of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) led by Mayors Christopher Piccio of Antique; Gerardo Calderon of Rizal; Napoleon Dy, Isabela; Geminiano Galicia, Romblon and Dennis Pineda, Pampanga.

Other local officials who rallied behind the President and her declaration of a state of national emergency were: Gov. Benjamin Loong, Sulu; Gov. Jesus Typoco Jr., Camarines Norte; Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers, Surigao del Norte; Gov. Raul Lee, Sorsogon; Gov. Loreto Ocampos, Misamis Occidental; acting Gov. Bae Monera Macabangon, Lanao del Sur;

Mayor Jose Galaryo Jr., Valencia City, Bukidnon; Mayor Rodolfo Gache, Talisay, Camarines Norte; Mayor Abdurahman Arbison, Luuk, Sulo; Mayor Guillermo Acero, Siniloan, Laguna; Councilor Raul Amoc, Butuan City; Board Members JB Yango of Nueva Ecija and Becky Aquino of Sorsogon.

Earlier, the 1.7 million-strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) condemned Friday's "destabilization attempts by ragtag elements of both the military and the mainstream opposition" and reiterated their full support for the duly constituted government of President Arroyo and her declaration of a state of emergency to quell the disturbance.

Nonviolent option

In a statement, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado, who is president of both ULAP and the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), said that constitutional reform, and not extraconstitutional methods like military adventurism, is the only nonviolent and legal option for our people to overhaul the flawed political and economic structures that have for 20 years barred us from achieving the Edsa vision of a better life for the overwhelming majority.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas, president of the 117-member League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP); Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, ULAP spokesperson; Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, LCP chair; and Nueva Ecija Gov. Tomas Joson, LPP executive vice president, have all expressed support for the President and urged her to confront head-on those behind attempts to topple her administration.

More than 30 provincial governors and 80 municipal and city mayors, including 10 Metro Manila chief executives led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte either trooped to Malacañang to personally manifest their support for President Arroyo or sent their messages by mail.

FVR slams GMA: My support waning . . .

From page A1

what it said was a coup plot, before Ms Arroyo proclaimed an emergency.

"People are unduly panicking to the discredit of our credit rating," he stressed, noting the slide of the peso on the day she issued the proclamation.

Ramos said that a very prestigious sports tournament to be held here next week involving 12 world champions, and which would have brought the government some $120,000 in value-added tax collections, had been cancelled because of the current situation. He did not identify the event.

Ramos recalled that Aquino never toyed with the idea of declaring a state of emergency despite having faced nine coup attempts, some of them bloody.

Not a coup attempt

Recalling the bombing of the Armed Forces headquarters by rebel soldiers led by then Col. Gregorio Honasan in 1989, Ramos said: "Then AFP chief Gen. Renato de Villa and Gen. Ramon Montano were almost "barbecued" by Honasan but did Cory declare a state of national emergency? No."

Asked about Friday's discovery of a supposed coup plot allegedly to be led by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim of the Scout Rangers, Ramos said it was not even a coup in the real sense of the word.

"It is a threat but it is not in the nature of a coup attempt," he said.

Corrupting the military

He said he did not believe that there would be an Edsa People Power III because the military was still loyal to the President.

Ramos said that he had been warning the President against making moves that could further divide the country but to no avail.

He also accused Ms Arroyo of corrupting the military when she approved the allocation of some 1,600 hectares in Camp Tecson, Bulacan, home of the Scout Rangers, for their housing project.

"She is coddling and corrupting the military. She is actually driving a wedge between the military and the civilians in that community. Why is she giving this to the military. What if the civilians get jealous?" he said.

Hardheaded President

Asked if the President was hopelessly "stubborn," Ramos said, "That is an understatement. *Matigas ang ulo* (She is hardheaded). *Makunat* (She is difficult to take)."

Ramos said he planned to visit his friend Montano, who was arrested yesterday, and help secure his quick release. *(Story on Page A1)*

"It's a badge of honor under the present circumstances," Ramos said. "Don't worry about Montano. He's always been a tough warrior."

Asked if he felt he would be the next to be taken, Ramos said: "They will not arrest me. I hope I'm on that list because it's a badge of honor."

The country's newest cardinal made no direct reference to Ms Arroyo's emergency proclamation in a homily yesterday, but instead slammed military adventurism as the "principal source of problems in democratic Philippines."

Setback for RP

"Military posturing of any kind, for any reason, severely risks our position among the family of honorable nations, sets the country back in its business competitiveness, work availability, the unity of people and the value of its currency," Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said.

"At its worst, it is seen as the military grabbing the supremacy from the civilian," he said in his first Mass as a cardinal on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of People Power I at the Edsa Shrine.

Personal sacrifice

Rosales said the occasion should also remind "those in governance that the issues of leadership and corrupt transactions must be addressed with sincerity, transparency and with personal sacrifice."

While Filipinos crossed the boundary between tyranny and freedom 20 years ago, Rosales said the event could not be the "exclusive ownership of only the reformists, politicians, opportunists, military, the poor and the middle class or of the Church."

Present at the noon Mass were former Presidents Aquino and Ramos and a handful of Ms Arroyo's critics who also played roles in the first Edsa revolution.

The two leaders were joined at the Mass by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, "Hyatt 10" members Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Teresita "Ging" Deles, Florencio "Butch" Abad and Imelda Nicolas, former ambassadors to the Vatican Howard Dee and Henrietta de Villa, former Sen. Rene Saguisag and Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano and Gilbert Remulla.

Emergency edict a ploy to stay in power–Hyatt 10

MEMBERS OF THE "HYATT 10" yesterday called President Macapagal-Arroyo's emergency proclamation "the biggest blow to our democracy and further exposes (her) desire to hold on to power."

"On the 20th anniversary of People Power I, (through which) we ended the rule of a repressive dictator, we face a government which brings us back to where we were two decades ago," the group said in a statement released during a joint press conference with the Black and White Movement and the Laban ng Masa.

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman asked the public to be "creative" in expressing their dismay at the Arroyo administration, such as by tying ribbons to their gates or using pins, cell phone "texting" and Internet blogging.

Senators denounced the raid on the Daily Tribune and the arrest of people critical of the administration.

"The media and political opposition are not enemies of the state. Mrs. Arroyo should learn to distinguish the so-called enemies of the state from her detractors. Mrs. Arroyo is not the state," Sen. Jamby Madrigal said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the crackdown on the President's critics "is a test of GMA's limits in exercising her powers within and outside the Constitution."

"This is very dangerous in that it may also be a test of the limits of the Filipinos," he said. Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he would file a resolution next week calling for an inquiry into the factual and legal basis of the proclamation.

Sen. Richard Gordon warned continued enforcement of Proclamation No. 1017 would breed fear among mediamen, ordinary citizens and businessmen. *Christian V. Esguerra, TJ Burgonio*

Envoy assures UN RP will respect human rights

By Volt Contreras

ON THE DAY THE POLICE RAIDED a newspaper office and "invited for questioning" several persons linked to an alleged coup d'état, a Filipino diplomat assured the United Nations the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo will respect human rights and due process despite the declaration of a state of national emergency.

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said the Philippine mission to the UN had explained the situation in Manila in a note verbale to Secretary General Kofi Annan and all the member-states of the global body.

"I assured the secretary general and member-states that the Philippines and the government of President Arroyo remained stable and that the bill of rights and due process provided for in our Constitution were being observed .despite the declaration of a state of national emergency to counter a planned military takeover," the DFA quoted Ambassador Lauro Baja, Philippine permanent representative to the UN, as saying.

Baja said UN member-states appreciated "the inherent right of our government to defend and preserve our democratic institutions and ensure the safety and security of our people and the integrity of our state."

DADDY'S GIRL
This is what it's all about after Luli Arroyo walked over to her father, Mike Arroyo, for a hug and an exchange of comforting words at Malacañang's Heroes Hall hours after President Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed a state of national emergency on Friday. LYN RILLON

Foreign gov'ts issue alerts but DOT says tourists safe

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM said yesterday that the country remained safe for tourists even as foreign governments cautioned their citizens about traveling to the Philippines following the declaration of a state of emergency.

"We wish to advise the traveling public that travel to the Philippines continues to be safe," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said in a statement. "Tourist destinations remain safe, bolstered by the inherent warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people."

He said it was "business as usual" for tourist facilities and related establishments throughout the country.

Robert Dean Barbers, general-manager of DOT's implementing arm, the Philippine Tourism Authority, also reported that tourism in the provinces remained unaffected by the disturbances in Metro Manila.

"I'm telling our foreign travelers that there's practically no reason to worry. It's a beautiful day everyday in our tourist spots. There's no revolution or coup d'etat in Boracay or Palawan; everything is in order," Barbers said in a phone interview.

Durano and Barbers said tourism and law enforcement agencies were coordinating their activities to ensure the safety of all tourists.

Last Friday, the US Embassy in Manila advised Americans in the country to take prudent steps to ensure their personal safety during what it called an "uncertain time."

Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop said that by "prudent steps" was meant that American nationals were being advised to register with the embassy and "avoid large crowds, demonstrations or any places where there may be violent confrontations between protesters and the police."

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade also warned its citizens going to or living in the Philippines about heightened tensions in Manila.

The Hong Kong Security Bureau said it was closely monitoring developments in the Philippines and called on travelers from Hong Kong to seek help at the Chinese Embassy when needed.

Malaysia urged its citizens traveling to the Philippines to exercise caution.

"I hope Malaysians who want to go the Philippines will obtain the latest information on the situation. If it is safe, then it should not be an obstacle for their visit," Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar was quoted as saying by TV3.

Hamid urged Malaysians already in the country to avoid places where mass protests were being held to ensure their safety.

With an AFP report

Docu on Edsa shown tonight

EDSA I, THAT SHINING MOMENT IN HISTORY was the beginning of the country's search for genuine change, according to Eugenia Apostol, chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWPP), a people power advocacy group.

Now comes a 90-minute video documentary that relives the tumultuous Edsa Revolution of two decades ago.

Produced by FWPP, "Edsa 1986: Mga Tinig nang Himagsikan," will be broadcast at 9:30 tonight over ABS-CBN Channel 2. It is directed by award-winning documentarist Butch Nolasco based on a script by Nancy and Raul Rodrigo.

An MTV of a new original song by rock diva Kitchie Nadal will cap the 90-minute documentary.

"The real goal of the People Power Revolution was not a mere change of regimes but rather of genuine social transformation," said Apostol, who is also the founding chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and publisher of the tabloid Mr. & Ms Special Editions, two of the leading papers that openly opposed the Marcos regime.

Representing the generation that was at Edsa, singer/composer Jim Paredes leads the curious younger generation, represented by TV personality Bianca Gonzales, back to September 1972, when Marcos declared martial law. *Fe Zamora*

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Oil companies slash pump prices by 50¢ per liter

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSIVE PRICE hikes, oil firms yesterday reduced the pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter as crude oil prices in the world market have started to ease.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V effected the price rollbacks at 6 p.m. yesterday.

Total (Philippines) Corp. also slashed gasoline prices by 45 centavos per liter and diesel and kerosene prices by the same levels as its competitors.

New player Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. initiated the price reduction on Friday, decreasing prices of gasoline products by P1 a liter and of diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter.

The price reduction brings premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P37.12 and P38.45 per liter, diesel to between P30.83 and P33 per liter, and kerosene to between P33.40 and P34.72 per liter.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude had dropped to a February average of $57.68 per barrel from a January average of $58.44 per barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also declined to $64.78 per barrel in the first 23 days of February from $66.79 per barrel last month.

MOPS-based diesel also fell to an average of $70.92 per barrel in the Feb. 1-23 period from the January average of $73.14 per barrel.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said world oil prices had started to ease this month after being on the uptrend the past several months due to the unrest in oil-producing country Nigeria and concerns about Iran's nuclear project.

"We have started to see some easing of world oil prices this month after (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries') unanimous decision on Jan. 31 to maintain production in the second quarter," he said.

"In fact, international prices are now on a downtrend, an indication that will somehow provide some relief to oil importing countries like the Philippines," he added.

Shell, however, raised the price of its liquefied petroleum gas by 56 centavos a liter.

The international contract price of LPG had risen to a record high $625.50 per metric ton (MT) from $582 per MT in January.

Since the start of the year, gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices have only gone down twice by a total of P1 a liter, but have risen thrice by a total of P1.50 a liter.

LPG prices have risen four times by P2.17 centavos per kilogram or P23.87 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

LPG now sells for between P508.53 and P552.32 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

GMA visits trade show under heavy guard

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TWENTY-SEVEN HOURS AFTER declaring a state of national emergency, President Macapagal-Arroyo ventured out of the Palace under very heavy security yesterday to attend a franchising business exhibit organized by a businessman and presidential adviser.

The President's black Mercedes Benz was flanked and trailed by a convoy of more than a dozen vehicles as she went to a shopping mall at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City, site of the "Go Negosyo" summit and expo organized by presidential adviser for entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion.

Although she sported eye bags from apparent lack of sleep, the President's eyes lit up when a weekend crowd of shoppers mobbed her like a movie star as she stepped on the escalator surrounded by at least five close-in bodyguards. (Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor noted that Ms Arroyo had had a good rest yesterday after going sleepless Friday.)

Despite the claimed existence of a "clear and present danger" to her administration, the President braved the crowded mall where she was cheered warmly by the summit participants.

"You are the genuine people power," she told 10 teenagers who were feted as the country's future entrepreneurs for their business ideas, which ranged from squash ice cream to a travel agency for disabled persons.

Defensor said the President wanted to send a strong message on where her true priorities lay – the economy – by going to this event while her administration was under siege.

The President had canceled all her scheduled activities from Friday through the weekend except for Concepcion's invitation. And the audience showed their appreciation by giving her a warm welcome despite being tagged by pollsters as the most unpopular Philippine president.

For the second straight day, Malacañang looked like a fortress with container vans laid out like walls of a giant maze at the major access points. Soldiers in full battle gear were all over the place.

GMA allies allow protests

DAVAO CITY – MAYOR RODRIGO Duterte of this city and Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos, both allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, are defying the ban on protest demonstrations imposed by the President's proclamation of a state of national emergency last Friday.

"We live in a democracy," Duterte said, adding the city would allow protests for as long as they were not violent.

"The right to peaceful assembly must be observed and protected," he said.

Ocampos said he supported Ms Arroyo's proclamation but maintained that the right to dissent should not be curtailed "for as long as (protest actions) are conducted in an orderly and peaceful manner."

"The more we allow (people) to voice out their views, the more we let off political steam and diffuse tension," Ocampos told the INQUIRER.

Ocampos called on the province's police to be tolerant of the "people's expression of their political sentiments."

But militants should skip Ozamiz City and the town of Clarin, both in Misamis Occidental.

Ozamiz City Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. and Clarin Mayor David Navarro warned activists they would be dealt with "according to the standing order of the President." Both said they were not inclined to issue any rally permits.

In Jolo, Sulu, a scheduled rally against the joint RP-US military exercise Balikatan was cancelled yesterday.

Temojen Tulawie, convenor of the Concerned Citizens of Sulu, said the group decided to cancel the rally because "our members received reminders, warnings and worse, harassment."

He said officers of the 104th Army Brigade under Brig. Gen. Nehemias Pajarito "have warned our supporters to do away with the anti-Balikatan and anti-American rallies."

"Definitely we were all afraid," Tulawie said. *Ryan D. Rosauro, Dennis Jay C. Santos and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Corrections

IN THE FEB. 21 column —"Grand memory"— of Juan L. Mercado, the name of former Sen. Benigno Aquino was misspelled.

* * *

IN THE FEB. 23 issue, a front-page story — "When mistahs embrace"— misstated the first name of a soldier who led in February 1986 a Philippine Constabulary Task Force in a fight against rebels. The soldier's name is Col. Teodorico Viduya — not Col. Alfredo Viduya.

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INVITATION TO BID
Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested and qualified service providers to undertake the Pest Management Program of MWSI for a period of one (1) year.
Complete set of documents can be secured beginning February 27, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable pre-qualification fee in the amount of P1,000.00. A Pre-bid Conference will be held on March 3, 2006, 10:00AM at the MWSI Corporate Logistics Conference Room. All interested service providers are required to attend the Pre-bid Conference.
Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents shall be on March 8, 2006 at 5:00PM.
MWSI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bid proposals, waive any formality or defect therein, and accept the bid it deems most advantageous to the company.
(Sgd.) LUIS M.Z. LERMA
Manager, Purchasing Dept.
(PDI-Feb. 25 & 26, 2006)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-0001 to 47 local 1120
Direct Line: 840-1612 / Fax No.: (632) 840-1619
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PNOC Exploration Corporation though its 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the PNOC Board intends to apply the sum of PHP 3,465,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for IT06-202. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
PNOC Exploration Corporation now invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of
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Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents. ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the PNOC EC Procurement Section (c/o Mr. Carlos L. Mojias) from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the above address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PHP 1,000.00.
PNOC Exploration Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.
Bids and eligibility requirements must be received by the PNOC EC Procurement Section on or before March 23, 2006, 3:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS. The bids, including the eligibility requirements, shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
PNOC Exploration reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
This publication is also posted on our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and on the DBM website at www.procurementservice.gov.ph
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee
(PDI--Feb. 26, 2006)

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(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
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(PDI – Feb. 26 & 27, 2006)

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Labor group bats for more health care jobs in Japan

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF the Philippines yesterday called on the government to place on the backburner a bilateral free trade agreement with Japan until Tokyo consented to granting Filipino workers "real and ready access" to Japan's lucrative health care labor market.

The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement should provide for a "demand-based" deployment of Filipino nurses and caregivers to Japan, not the quota-based system that Tokyo wants, according to TUCP general secretary Ernesto Herrera.

"There is a huge pent-up demand for foreign health care workers in Japan due to its rapidly aging population. Government is duty-bound to secure for Filipino workers the opportunity to meet this requirement." Herrera said.

Last week, Labor Undersecretary Danilo Cruz told reporters that the treaty remained deadlocked because of a disagreement on how many Filipino health care workers would be allowed to enter Japan.

Japan, the country's second-biggest trading partner, wants to limit to 100 the number of Filipino health workers that would be allowed to work there.

The Philippines wants the number to be demand-based, or as many as the market can accommodate.

Citing a study by Nomura Capital Management Inc., Herrera said the Japanese population was aging faster than that of any other country so that Japan would soon have only two able-bodied workers for every retiree.

Herrera said the remittances of Filipino workers in Japan had been going down because of the lingering aftereffects of the stricter employment rules for foreign entertainers earlier implemented by the Japanese government.

The former senator said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas records showed that Filipino workers in Japan sent home $356.66 million in 2005, up 16 percent from $308.12 million in 2004.

But the $356.66 million was still $133.78 million, or 27 percent, less than the $490.44 million that they remitted in 2002, just before the stiff hiring rules for foreign entertainers were announced, Herrera pointed out.

He added that the $133.78 million, or P7.3 billion, difference meant a lot of lost income that otherwise would have sustained hundreds of thousands of poor families.

The $356.66 million was even less than the $370.09 million that Filipino workers in Japan remitted in 2000.

In contrast, the remittances from Hong Kong-based Filipino workers soared 130 percent over the past five years, from $146.84 million in 2000 to $338.90 million in 2005, Herrera said.

Jerome Aning

Floods hampering Central Luzon rehab from Mt. Pinatubo eruptions

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE REBUILDing of Central Luzon after the devastation wrought by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and lahar flows in 1991 was "far from finished," an official of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has said.

Osamu Murata, the chief representative of JBIC in the Philippines, cited floods in the region as a "critical" problem.

Murata said the JBIC "remains steadfast in our commitment to finish the challenging job that we have started and we will be with you until the task of recovering from the ashes of the Pinatubo eruption is finally completed."

"In this sense, it is urgently necessary for the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) and local executives to revisit the Japan International Cooperation Agency (-funded) master plan and identify and establish the priority of the remaining projects [there] in order to complete the recovery of the areas," he said in a speech during a recent workshop on the Pinatubo hazards urgent mitigation projects (PHUMP).

Murata said the JBIC had extended loans totaling 15.924 billion yen to two PHUMP phases.

Gil Villanueva, chief of the DPWH's Mount Pinatubo emergency project management office, said under Phase 1, dikes were built on the Sacobia-Bamban River basin in Tarlac, the Manila North Road portion there was rehabilitated and the Mabalacat-Bamban bridge was repaired, all at a total cost of P2.8 billion.

Under Phase 2, which was focused on the Pasig-Potrero River basin in Pampanga, the southwest portion of the FVR megadike was repaired and raised, the Baluyot channel was improved, the San Fernando-Santo Tomas-Minalin tail dike was fortified, the pilot channel of the Third River was dredged and the Mancatian bridge and access roads to and from Angeles City and Porac town were rebuilt. The projects cost a total of P4.5 billion.

The engineering interventions reduced the risks from lahar rampages and floods and restored the transportation network in the region, Villanueva said.

Oversight agencies such as the National Economic and Development Authority are studying the PHUMP's Phase 3 before this is endorsed to the JBIC.

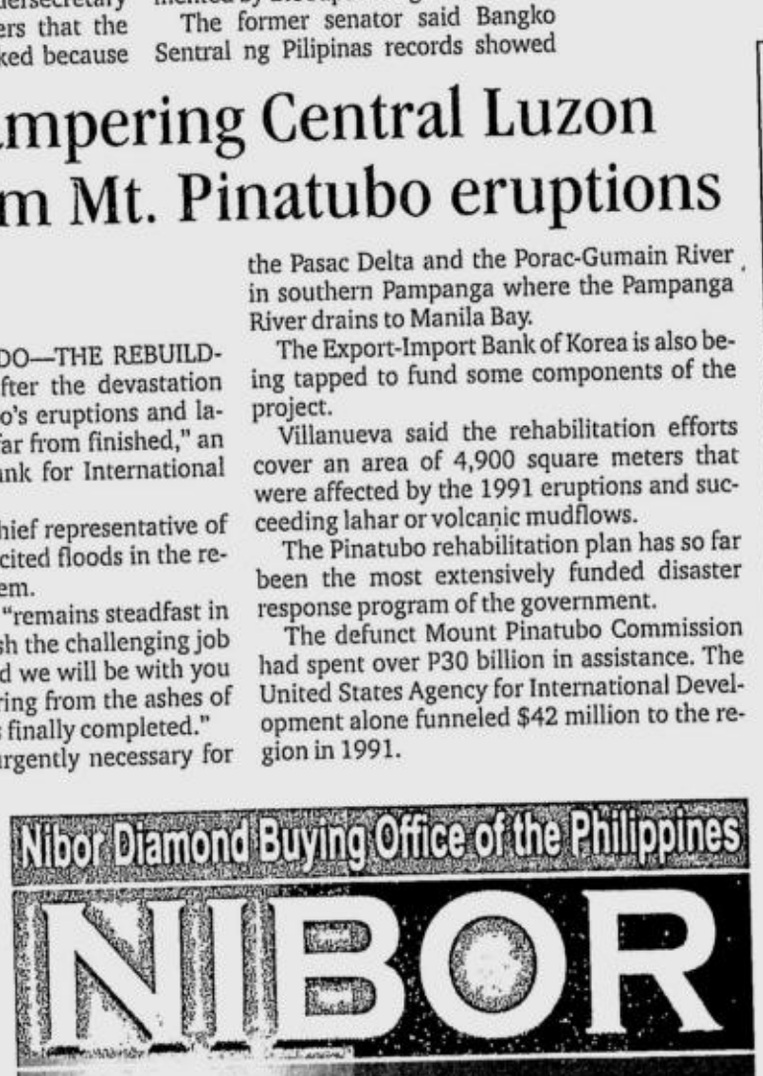
Under this phase, flood control work will be carried out at the Pasac Delta and the Porac-Gumain River in southern Pampanga where the Pampanga River drains to Manila Bay.

The Export-Import Bank of Korea is also being tapped to fund some components of the project.

Villanueva said the rehabilitation efforts cover an area of 4,900 square meters that were affected by the 1991 eruptions and succeeding lahar or volcanic mudflows.

The Pinatubo rehabilitation plan has so far been the most extensively funded disaster response program of the government.

The defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission had spent over P30 billion in assistance. The United States Agency for International Development alone funneled $42 million to the region in 1991.



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) invites A & E Consultants to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Architectural and Engineering Design Consultancy Services for the proposed BSP Branch Building in Zamboanga City. Approved Budget for the Contract is P6,080,000.00

The scope of work includes among others the preparation of plans, specifications and detailed estimates to include architectural, electrical, mechanical, structural, electronics and communications, plumbing/sanitary and landscaping works as specified in the Terms of Reference (TOR).

The minimum eligibility requirements are as follows:

1.0 The firm must have been in operation for the last fifteen (15) years (reckoned from the date of the first and advertisement/posting of this invitation

2.0 The firm must have rendered within the last ten (10) years (reckoned from the date of the first advertisement/posting of this Invitation) A & E design consultancy services, at least three (3) completed new construction projects of similar nature like office buildings, banks, exchanges and financial institutions of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP projects and must be able to submit a certification of satisfactory performance for at least two (2) of the required three (3) projects

3.0 The principal or Managing Officer must be a Registered Architect with at least twenty (20) years experience in Architectural design and coordinating team efforts in A & E design

4.0 The key personnel should be Registered Architect/s and Engineer/s with at least fifteen (15) years design experience

5.0 In the case of Foreign Consultants, the firm (partnership/corporation/joint venture) must be at least 60% owned by Filipino citizens. Foreign consultants must be registered with SEC and/or any agency authorized by the laws of the Philippines

6.0 In case of a joint venture, a valid joint agreement. The joint venture must have rendered A & E design consultancy services for at least two (2) completed projects of similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.

The quality-cost based evaluation procedure stipulated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA No. 9184 shall be adopted for this consultancy service requirement

Firms which currently have two (2) or more active consultancy contracts with the BSP are not eligible to bid for this project.

Eligibility documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat for a non-refundable fee of P500.00, Room 204, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building at the BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Streets, Manila and must be submitted duly accomplished to the same office not later than 1:30 P.M. on March 7, 2006

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive defect or any formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any consultant/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - Feb 12 & 26, 2006)

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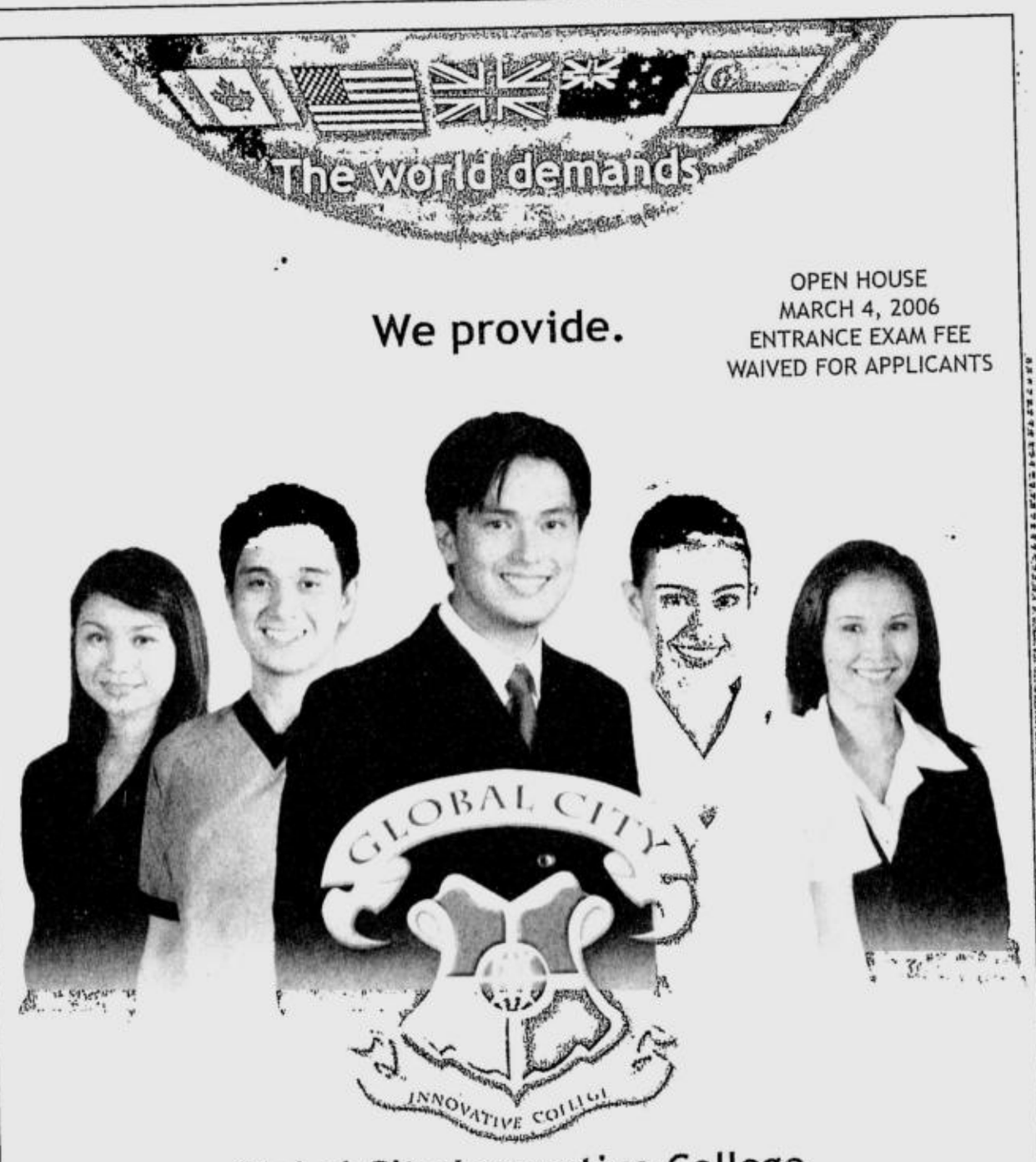

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Saudis foil bid to blow up oil plant

RIYADH—THE SAUDI BRANCH OF THE AL-QAIDA terror network has claimed responsibility for Friday's foiled attempt to blow up a major Saudi Arabian oil processing plant.

"The heroic mujahideen of the squadron of Sheikh Osama bin Laden, God protect him, has successfully penetrated the oil and gas refinery in the town of Abqaiq ... where two car bombs were able to enter," the "Organization of al-Qaida in the Arab Peninsula" wrote in a statement on its website overnight Friday.

Saudi Arabia said earlier that it had foiled an attack against its biggest oil processing plant, the first known attempt against an installation in the world's top oil producer since a wave of al-Qaida terror broke out.

The Opec kingpin rushed to reassure markets that output was unaffected by the thwarted attack on the world's largest oil-producing center in the oil-rich Eastern Province which left at least four people dead.

A security official said that two security men and at least two assailants were killed in the attempted suicide car bomb attack on the complex.

The security men succumbed to serious wounds sustained while trying to stop the attackers.

It was still not known if there were more than two people in the two cars which attempted to penetrate the processing plant, the official said.

The Saudi interior ministry earlier said the vehicles exploded near the entrance of the facility.

The official said that six workers of state oil giant Saudi Aramco "sustained slight wounds from shrapnel."

According to oil sources, the attackers wore Aramco uniforms and used cars painted in the company's colors for the attempted attack.

The vehicles "exploded near the entrance and damage was limited to a small fire which was brought under control ... Production operations were not affected," an interior ministry statement said.

"These plants contribute to the pillage of oil wealth from the Muslims," the al-Qaida message claimed, vowing to publish later details of the operations which it said were carried out in the name of the fugitive Bin Laden, head of the al-Qaida terror network, and hailing the two "martyrs."

"This operation is in line with operations carried out by al-Qaida in its war against the Christians and Jews to stop their pillage of Muslim riches and as part of a campaign to chase them out of the Arab peninsula," read the website message, the authenticity of which could not be confirmed.

"These heroes are an honorable model for the youth of Islam in the Arab peninsula. There are many more. They burn with impatience to fight the enemies of Allah among the Jews, the Christians and their servile allies in apostate governments. They share the sufferings endured by their Muslim brothers in Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere."

In a December 2004 audio message, Bin Laden called on his supporters to attack oil installations, "in particular in Iraq and in the Gulf."

Saudi Arabia, which sits on a quarter of global oil reserves, currently pumps around 9.5 million barrels of oil per day and has an output capacity of 11 million bpd.

AFP

AN UNDATED video grab of Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil facility. Two cars exploded at the gates of the facility on Feb. 24, when security forces fired on suicide bombers trying to storm the world's biggest oil processing plant. REUTERS

Building crumbles in B'desh, traps workers

DHAKA—A FIVE-STORY BUILDING housing a garment factory, shops and offices collapsed in the Bangladeshi capital Saturday, killing at least three people and leaving many others trapped, officials said.

Soldiers, police, fire officials and hundreds of volunteers rushed to the scene to pull out victims trapped under the caved-in Phoenix Building in the city's congested industrial area.

"Many workers were in the factory when the building collapsed," the deputy commissioner of Dhaka police, Obasidur Rahman, said.

Rescuers were using bulldozers and cutters to break through and reach those trapped by heavy slabs of concrete which was being shifted by cranes.

Some rescuers were frantically tugging at debris with their bare hands as the relatives of the missing looked on anxiously.

"We can hear noises of cries for help," firefighter Nazrul Islam said.

AFP

Denmark makes overtures to Muslims in cartoon row

COPENHAGEN—SEEKING TO CALM MUSLIM anger over caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, Denmark will hold a religious conference, make a donation to a UN agency fighting prejudice and stage a Muslim cultural exhibition.

Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller outlined the plans in a video sent to Arab television stations. The satirical cartoons, first printed in a Danish newspaper, sparked riots by Muslims around the world.

"The message is that we have listened to reactions from abroad and now launch a number of forward-looking and constructive initiatives aimed at promoting respectful dialogue," a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

In another development, Denmark said its ambassador to Syria would return to Damascus on Sunday, almost three weeks after Muslims set fire to the embassy to protest against the cartoons.

Many Muslims feel it is blasphemous to depict the Prophet.

Earlier this month, Denmark's embassy in Lebanon was set on fire and the Danish envoys to Indonesia and Iran had to leave after their embassies were attacked. Denmark's envoy returned to Jakarta this week.

The 12 caricatures were first printed by Jyllands-Posten in September and reprinted elsewhere, sparking protests by Muslims and pitting media freedom against religious sensitivities.

Denmark's largest circulation tabloid, Ekstra Bladet, gave its "Victor Prize" to Jyllands-Posten on Thursday night for its defense of freedom of speech since running the cartoons. The prize is named for a former editor of Ekstra Bladet.

Muslims have demanded an official apology from the Nordic country, which has around 530 troops in Iraq. But Denmark has refused to apologise on behalf of the paper.

"In Denmark there is a genuine respect for the religious feelings of other people and we acknowledge that many Muslims have felt gravely insulted by these controversial drawings," Moeller said.

His statement is on a foreign ministry website set up for the cartoon crisis, www.drawings.um.dk.

In Paris, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which tracks cases of anti-Semitism, said it had written to Moeller to complain that Jewish groups had not been invited to the religious conference with Muslims planned for March 10.

Shimon Samuels, head of the center's Paris office, wrote that the "exclusionary" conference would be "nothing less than an act of religious discrimination."

After noting the Danish government planned to hold an Islamic festival and contribute to the UN's Alliance of Civilizations program for better understanding with the Islamic world, he asked whether Denmark also planned "to announce matching these gestures for other faith communities."

In Helsinki, the cultural magazine Kaltio sacked its chief editor after he refused to remove a cartoon on its website depicting the Prophet Muhammad wearing a mask and discussing freedom of speech with a cartoonist, Finnish media reported.

The magazine's website has been shut while the images were being removed.

Reuters

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for:

PACKAGE NO.	DIVISION	SCHOOL	PROJECT	Approved Budget for the Contract
1	Benguet	Mankayan Elementary School	Partial Construction of Two (2) Storey – Six (6) Classroom School Building	Php 5,790,000.00
2	Digos City	Digos Central Elementary School	Completion of Three Storey School Building (Right Wing)	Php 4,535,500.00
3	Cebu City	Talamban National High School	Construction of Two (2) Storey Eight (8) Classroom School Building	Php 14,606,266.50
		Inayawan Elementary School	Construction Four (4) Storey School Building	

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
Receipt from Prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	March 2-10, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 9-17, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 9-17, 2006, DepED Central Office
Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	March 3-13, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 10-20, 2006 DepED Central Office	March 10-20, 2006, DepED Central Office
Eligibility Screening	March 14-16, 2006 DepED Central Office	March 21-23, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 21-23, 2006 DepED Central Office
Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	March 17, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 24, 2006, DepED Central Office	March 24, 2006, DepED Central Office
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 17, 2006, - April 17, 2006, DepED Central Office or CAR Regional Office	March 24, 2006 - May 2, 2006, DepEd Central Office or Regional Office No. XI, F. Torres St., Davao City	March 24, 2006-May 8, 2006, DepEd Central Office or Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City
Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2006, 10:00 AM CAR Regional Office Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	April 18, 2006, 10:00 AM Regional Office No. XI, F. Torres St., Davao City	April 26, 2006, 10:00 AM, Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City
Receipt and Opening of Bids	April 18, 2006, 10:00 AM CAR Regional Office Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	May 3, 2006, 10:00 AM, Regional Office No. XI F. Torres St., Davao City	May 9, 2006, 10:00 AM, Regional Office No. VII, Lahug, Cebu City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders the Eligibility Forms at DepED Central Office, BAC Secretariat Office, 5th Floor Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue electronic copy (CD) of Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 3,500.00** per package to the DepED Cashier. Plans and Bill of Quantities Forms will be issued in hard copies.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Package shall be rejected. Likewise, late bids shall be rejected.

The Department of Education assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR
BAC Vice Chairperson

(PDI - February 19 & 26 2006)

DO YOU WANT TO STUDY IN JAPAN?

COME TO THE
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Saturday, March 4, 2006
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9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. (Morning Session)
2:00–5:00 P.M. (Afternoon Session)

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In celebration of the PHILIPPINES-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP YEAR 2006

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND SALES
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BUENA MANO Auction

2006 AUCTION TOUR — Greater Metro Manila

Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2
(fronting Park Square 1)
Park Square Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City
March 25, 2006, Saturday, 9:30 am - 12:00 nn

as long as **12 years** payment term

as low as **9.75%** interest

LOW downpayment

BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION, ANTIPOLO (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
899sqm	P1,186,680
1,508sqm	P1,085,760
1,811sqm	P1,303,920
1,622sqm	P1,167,840
3,069sqm	P2,209,680

STA. CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS, ANTIPOLO CITY (VACANT LOTS)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
305sqm	P 915,000
308sqm	P 924,000
308sqm	P 924,000
308sqm	P 924,000
424sqm	P1,272,000

LA RESIDENCIA DE BACOOR SUBD., BACOOR, CAVITE (VACANT LOTS)

LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE:
L1 B3	P1,014,000
L8 B4	P 918,000
L4 B5	P 714,000

BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY, ANTIPOLO (TOWNHOUSES)

L.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
72sqm	P 923,250
72sqm	P 882,750
72sqm	P 489,055
72sqm	P 445,448
72sqm	P 430,912

MAKATI CINEMA SQUARE TOWER, MAKATI CITY (CONDOMINIUMS)

F.A.	MIN. BID PRICE:
121.41sqm	P2,549,610
121.41sqm	P2,549,610
149.70sqm	P3,143,700

BULACAN

BUL-V-1 - 2 Adjacent Vacant Lots
LA 659 sqm (TCT 74451 & TCT 74452)
LOTS 28 & 29 BLK 3, MAHOGANY ST.
Green Plains, Calumpit
Min. Bid Price: P 1,334,250

BUL-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,946 sqm
LOT 1-C & 1-D KAYPIAN
San Jose del Monte City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,605,750

BUL-V-3 - 98 Vacant Lots
LA 72 - 124 sqm
ELSIAN HOMES PHASE 1 & 2
Bo. Bahay Pare, Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 6,768,000

BUL-V-4 - 19 Vacant Lots
LA 112 sqm
VILLA CLARA HOMES SUBD.
San Sebastian, Hagonoy
Min. Bid Price: P 2,927,250

BUL-V-5 - 2 Vacant Lots
LA 40 & 100 sqm
AYUKIT SUBD., BO TURO & BINANG II
Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 231,000

BUL-V-6 – 14 Vacant Lots (row house)
LA 40-100 sqm FA 40-100 sqm
AYUKIT SUBD., BO. TURO & BINANG II
Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 2,265,333

BUL-V-8 – 5 Vacant Lots
LA 278-304 sqm
RICHMOND SUBD., BAHAY PARE
Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,605,000

BUL-L-1 - Townhouse/Apartment
18 units apartment
LA 279 sqm FA 617.5 sqm
L3 B2 SORIENTE ST., SORIENTE SUBD., Tugatog, Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,561,250

BUL-L-2 - Townhouse/Apartment
16 units apartment
LA 400 sqm FA 548 sqm
LOTS 23 & 24 ROAD LOT 35 GOLDEN VILLAGE
Tabang, Guiguinto
Min. Bid Price: P 2,737,500

BUL-L-3 - Townhouse/Apartment
24 units apartment
LA 299 sqm FA 539 sqm
BLK 2 LOT 2 SORIENTE ST., BO. CAINGIN
Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,602,500

BUL-L-4 – Others
LA 290 sqm FA 236 sqm
1370 SAMPALOC ST., CONSTANTINO PARK SUBD.
Manlao
Min. Bid Price: P 636,750

BUL-L-5 - House & Farm Lot
LA 5,765 sqm FA 100 sqm
#293 KM 38, PULONG BUHANGIN
Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 4,514,250

BUL-L-6 - House & Lot
LA 856 sqm FA 305 sqm
1029 LIBIS ST., SALUYSOY
Meycauayan
Min. Bid Price: P 3,619,500

BUL-L-8 - House & Lot
LA 230 sqm FA 144 sqm
1996 LA TRINIDAD SUBD.
Lolomboy
Min. Bid Price: P 892,500

BUL-L-9 - House & Lot
LA 232 sqm FA 193 sqm
LOT 1 BLK 5 COR. DIAMOND STS., CONSUELO SUBD.
Abangan, Marilao
Min. Bid Price: P 1,050,750

BUL-L-10 - House & Lot
LA 1,200 sqm FA 170 sqm
LOT 770-A-10-B GRAVADOR ROAD, BO. SAN JOSE PATAG
Sta Maria
Min. Bid Price: 1,838,250

BUL-L-11 - House & Lot
LA 1,857 sqm FA 94 sqm
LOT 1-E-2-B-2 PROVINCIAL ROAD, MUZON
San Jose Del Monte
Min. Bid Price: P 1,608,750

CAVITE

CA-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 365 sqm
LOT 19 BLK 6 NINONG FLORENTINO ST., BF HOMES SUBD., PHASE 2
Bo. Llano
Min. Bid Price: P 821,250

CA-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 600 sqm FA 620 sqm
2-storey residential building with 4BR and 3TB
LOTS 16 & 17, STA. MARIA ST., GUADANOVILLE SUBD.
Tala
Min. Bid Price: P 4,347,000

CA-L-3 - House & Lot
LA 689 sqm FA 80 sqm
Irregular shaped lot with 3 single detached houses
1005 CASTILLO COMPOUND, BRGY. LLANO
Min. Bid Price: P 1,001,999

CA-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 145 sqm FA 382
3-storey residential building with 6BR and 6TB
220 RIVERA COMPOUND, BAYANIHAN ST., BAESA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,303,500

CA-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 200 sqm FA 289 sqm
2-storey residential building with 4BR and 3TB
134 SALVADOR ST., BAESA
Min. Bid Price: P 1,995,880

RIZAL

C-V-101 - Vacant Lot
LA 276 sqm
LOT 8 BOCK 31 UNIWIDE COASTAL CITY DREAMLAND SUBD.
Bo. Timalan, Naic
Min. Bid Price: P 414,000

C-V-103 - Vacant Lot
LA 338 sqm
LOT 1 BLOCK 3 BARCELONA COR. MADRID ST.
La Residencia de Bacoor Subd., Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 1,014,000

C-V-104 - Vacant Lot
LA 306 sqm
LOT 8 BLOCK 4 BARCELONA COR MADRID ST.
La Residencia de Bacoor Subd., Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 918,000

C-V-105 - Vacant Lot
LA 238 sqm
LOT 4 BLOCK 5 SEVILLA ST.
La Residencia de Bacoor Subd., Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 714,000

C-V-106 - Vacant Lot
LA 230 sqm
LOT 25 BLOCK 108 NEVADA ST.
Metrosouth Subd., General Trias
Min. Bid Price: P 483,000

C-V-107 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,526 sqm
LOT 2892 H-4-G GOVERNORS DRIVE
Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martirez
Min. Bid Price: P 1,144,500

C-L-105 - House & Lot
LA 1,526 sqm FA 92.6 sqm
1-storey house with 3BR and 1TB
LOT 2892-H-4-G GOVERNOR'S DRIVE
Trece Martirez City
Min. Bid Price: P 1,797,000

C-L-106 - House & Lot
LA 389 sqm FA 184 sqm
1-storey house with 3BR and 1TB
NO. 230 ORCHIDS ST. SARAPDON SUBD.
Bo. Pag-asa III, Imus
Min. Bid Price: P 1,052,250

LAGUNA

L-V-101 - Vacant Lot
LA 3,084 sqm
LOT 33-A-1-F, BGY. SAN ANTONIO
San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 1,716,750

L-L-101 - House & Lot
LA 172 sqm FA 170
1-storey house with 4BR and 2TB
LOT 12 BLOCK 10 LILAC ST., CAMELLA HOMES SOUTH
San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 968,250

L-L-102 - House & Lot
LA 741 sqm FA 253 sqm
1-storey house with 7BR and 6TB
LOT 1485-A BRGY. CALLEJON, BGY. DILA
Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 2,084,250

L-L-103 - House & Lot
LA 290 sqm FA 376 sqm
1-storey house with 3BR ,1TB and 1 unfinished 3-storey house with 3BR and 3TB
LOT 11 BLOCK 6 ZENIA SUBD., ELVINDA VILLAGE
San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 1,619,250

L-L-104 - House & Lot
LA 146 sqm FA 70
2-storey house with 2BR and 1TB
LOT 18 BLOCK 3 ALSACE ST., STA. ROSA VILLAGE
Phase4-A, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 817,500

L-L-105 - House & Lot
LA 279 sqm FA 170 sqm
1-storey house with 5BR and 3TB
LOT 4 BLOCK 2 OLYMPUS DRIVE, OLYMPIA SUBD.
Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 1,460,250

PAMPANGA

LP-L-1 House & Lot
LA 414 sqm FA 456
2-storey house with 7BR and 5TB
30 Rosal cor. Verbonna & Santan St. VERGONVILLE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,307,000

LP-L-2 House & Lot
LA 231 sqm FA 324 sqm
2 units of 2-storey houses with 6BR & 4TB
NO. 21 -A CHORALE ST., STA. CECILIA VILLAGE
Talon
Min. Bid Price: P 1,087,500

LP-L-3 House & Lot
LA 208 sqm FA 189 sqm
1-storey house with 4BR and 3TB
No. 8 F. Dela Cruz
BF RESORT VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P 916,500

LP-L-4 House & Lot
LA 280 sqm FA 581 sqm
3-storey house with 8BR and 5TB
Lot 19 Block 25 Peking St
BF HOMES
Min. Bid Price: P 5,515,500

LP-L-6 - Townhouse/Apartment
14 units Townhouse
LA 847 sqm FA 936 sqm
T.I. ARANDA TOWNHOMES, ARANDA COMPOUND
Talon III
Min. Bid Price: P 5,749,500

MAKATI

MAK-L-1 – Condominium
FA 257.83 sqm
Office condo units with 2TB (convertible to residential)
UNIT 501 EGI HOMES MOLA 1, PRIMO RIVERA COR MOLA STS.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,683,483

MAK-L-2 – Condominium
FA 212 sqm
Office condo units with 2TB (convertible to residential)
UNIT 502 EGI HOMES MOLA 1, PRIMO RIVERA COR MOLA STS.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,011,595

MAK-L-3 – Condominium
Studio type residential condo unit with 1TB
UNIT C-3-5F8 (508) MAKATI PRIME CITY CONDO, ST. PAUL ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 836,063

MAK-L-4 – Condominium
FA 95 64sqm
Residential condo unit with 3BR and 2TB
UNIT 1206, 12/F, SOUTHSTAR PLAZA, CITYLAND 5, SOUTH SUPERHIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 1,578,080

MAK-L-8 – Condominium
FA 55sqm
Residential condo unit with 1BR and 1TB
UNIT 2512 MAKATI PRIME CITADEL INN, P. BURGOS ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,070,750

MAK-L-13 – Condominium
FA 178.92sqm
Residential condo unit with 2BR and 2TB
UNIT 301 CROWN TOWER CONDO, HV DELA COSTA ST., SALCEDO VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P 6,038,250

MANDALUYONG

MAL-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 775 sqm
LOT 34 BLOCK 3 NO. 34 IGNACIO COR. MAKANSAS STS.
Panghulo
Min. Bid Price: P 1,453,125

MAD-L-1 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 88.6sqm FA 162sqm
3-storey commercial townhouse with garage
UNIT 8 BSA TOWNHOMES, JB VARGAS ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,879,840

MAD-L-2 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 74.25sqm FA 190sqm
3-storey residential townhouse with 3BR, 4TB and 2 parking slots
UNIT 28 BSA TOWNHOMES, JB VARGAS ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 4,560,000

MAD-L-3 – Condominium
FA 69.62sqm
Office condo bare unit
UNIT 1003 SUMMIT ONE CONDOMINIUM, SHAW BOULEVARD
Min. Bid Price: P 1,984,500

MANILA

MAN-L-1 - House & Lot
LA-266.67sqm FA-82 9sqm
2-storey residential bldg
413 ESGUERRA ST., GAGALANGIN, TONDO
Min. Bid Price: P 1,944,750

MAN-L-2 - House & Lot
LA-240sqm FA-381sqm
3-storey residential building with 2BR and 6TB
3621 MAG. ARELLANO ST., BACOOD STA. MESA
Min. Bid Price: P 4,871,250

MAN-L-3 – Condominium
FA-159sqm with 3BR & 2TB (no parking slot)
UNIT 1405 14/F REGINA GARDEN II, 703 REINA REGENTE ST.
Binondo
Min. Bid Price: P 3,577,500

MUNTINLUPA

MUN-L-1 - House & Lot
LA 240 sqm FA 328 sqm (near City Hall)
2-storey house with 8BR and 4TB
Lot 20 Block 25 General Capinpin St.
Soldiers Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 1,503,750

MUN-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 500 sqm FA 621 sqm (near Susana tollgate)
3-storey house with 10BR 5TB
Lot 13 Block 8 San Bernardino St.
SUSANA HEIGHTS SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 5,616,750

PARAÑAQUE

PAR-L-1 - Others
8 door apartment
LA-99sqm FA-250sqm (beside Baclaran Church)
4-storey building with terrace
1379 MACTAN ST., BACLARAN
Min. Bid Price: P 1,268,991

PARL-L-3 - House & Lot
LA 975 sqm FA 203 sqm
2-storey house with 4BR and 5TB
Lot 1 Block 25 Timothy Ext.
MULTINATIONAL VILLAGE
Min. Bid Price: P 3,263,779

PAR-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 316 sqm FA 260 sqm (near BF Comm'l area)
1-storey house with 5BR and 6TB
NO. 37 DELA RAMA COR. BENITEZ ST., BF HOMES
Min. Bid Price: P-2,700,000

PAR-L-5 – Condominium
FA-145sqm (with view)
Condo unit with 1BR, 2TB, maid's quarter and parking slot
UNIT 1201, 12/F CHATEAU DE BAIE CONDO, ROXAS BLVD
Min. Bid Price: P 4,037,813

PAR-L-6 - Condominium
FA-39 52sqm with 1BR and 1TB
UNIT 403 VM TOWERS, NO. 727 ROXAS BLVD., BACLARAN
Min. Bid Price: 741,000

PAR-L-7 – Condominium
FA-198sqm (with sunset view)
Condominium unit with 2BR and 2TB
UNIT 1401 14/F PACIFIC COAST PLAZA, 1ST VILLAMAR ST., TAMBO
Min. Bid Price: P 5,229,600

PAR-L-8 – Condominium
FA-167sqm
Condominium unit with 2BR and 2TB
UNIT 604 PACIFIC COAST PLAZA, 1ST VILLAMAR ST., TAMBO
Min. Bid Price: P 3,759,525

PAR-L-9 – Condominium
FA-45.19sqm
Condominium unit with 1BR and 1TB
UNIT 304 VM TOWERS, NO. 727 ROXAS BLVD., BACLARAN
Min. Bid Price: P 847,500

PASAY

PAS-V-1 - Vacant Lot
557 sqm
LOTS 11, 14, 17, & 20, BLOCK 23, MARIQUITA ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 5,218,875

PASIG

PS-L-2 – Condominium
FA 198.75sqm
Residential/Office condo unit with 3RMs, 2TB and 1 parking slot
UNIT SW R-144 GOLDLOOP TOWERS, AMBER AVE. ORTIGAS CENTER
Min. Bid Price: P 5,962,500

QUEZON CITY

QC-L-1 - Townhouse/Apartment
3 units townhouse
LA-231sqm, FA-435sqm
Unit 1 with 3BR and 2TB, Unit 2 with 4BR and 4TB, Unit 3 with 3BR and 3TB
L9-A & 9-B MOZART ST. GREENVILLE SUBD.
Brgy. Sauyo, Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P 2,457,000

QC-L-2 – Commercial Bldg
LA-200sqm FA-625sqm (corner lot)
4-storey commercial building
LOT 83-A-2-B-2-A QUIRINO HI-WAY COR. KALAPATI ST., VILLILIA VILLAGE
Talipapa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,258,683

QC-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 65 sqm FA 154 sqm
2-storey residential building with 3BR, 3TB and rooldeck
LOT 5 BLK 20 NORTHMATRIXVILLE
Camarin Road, Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 561,527

QC-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 200 sqm FA 439 sqm (near SM Fairview)
3-storey unfinished residential building
NO. 8 CALALANG COMPOUND, BGY. KALIGAYAHAN
Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 1,759,146

QC-L-6 - House & Lot
LA 223 sqm FA 479 sqm (near SM Fairview)
Residential building
30 RIVERA COMPOUND, BGY. KALIGAYAHAN
Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 1,692,000

RIZAL

RIZ-V-1 – 67 Vacant Lots
LA 19,002 sqm
Undeveloped subdivision lots
SPRINGHILLS SUBD, AMPID
Min. Bid Price: P 5,700,600

RIZ-L-1 - House & Lot
LA 261 sqm FA 524 sqm
3-storey (incl attic) residential building
LOTS 8 & 9 ROOSEVELT PARK SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 3,023,250

RIZ-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 240 sqm FA 282.5 sqm
Unfinished 2-storey house with 5BR & 2TB
LOT 25 BLOCK 19 MT. BACO ST., AMITYVILLE SUBD, SAN JOSE
Rodriguez
Min. Bid Price: P 808,190

RIZ-L-3 - Others
LA 1,828 sqm FA 1,600 sqm
Garment factory
LOTS 18, 19, 20 & 21 BLOCK 21
EDENVILLE SUBD
Min. Bid Price: P 3,917,250

RIZ-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 72 sqm
LOT 3 BLOCK 2 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 162,000

RIZ-V-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 109 sqm
LOT 4 BLOCK 2 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 245,250

RIZ-V-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
LOT 6 BLOCK 2 CONCORDE ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 924,000

RIZ-V-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
LOT 23 BLOCK 2 CLARKSON ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 924,000

RIZ-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
LOT 28 BLOCK 2 CONCORDE ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 924,000

RIZ-V-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
LOT 29 BLOCK 2 CLARKSON ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 924,000

RIZ-V-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 367 sqm
LOT 32 BLOCK 2 CONCORDE ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,211,100

RIZ-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 420 sqm
LOT 25 BLOCK 3 CARMEL ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,260,000

RIZ-V-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 370 sqm
LOT 29 BLOCK 3 CHELSEA ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,110,000

RIZ-V-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
LOT 49 BLOCK 3 CHELSEA ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 924,000

RIZ-V-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 367 sqm
LOT 53 BLOCK 3 CHELSEA ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,211,100

RIZ-V-18 - Vacant Lot
LA 435 sqm
LOT 14 BLOCK 5 CLOVER ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,305,000

RIZ-V-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 420 sqm
LOT 11 BLOCK 1 CARMEL ST., STA CATALINA 1, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,260,000

RIZ-V-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 720 sqm
LOT 3 BLOCK 1 STA MONICA 3 MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 2,268,000

RIZ-V-21 - Vacant Lot
LA 720 sqm
LOT 2 BLOCK 1 STA MONICA 3, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 2,268,000

RIZ-V-22 - Vacant Lot
LA 820 sqm
LOT 1 BLOCK 1 STA MONICA 3, MISSION HILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 2,767,500

RIZ-V-23 - Vacant Lot
LA 357 sqm
LOT 1 BLOCK 13 NARCISUS DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 669,375

RIZ-V-24 - Vacant Lot
LA 800 sqm
LOT 22 BLOCK 1 SEVENTH AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 950,400

RIZ-V-25 - Vacant Lot
LA 800 sqm
LOT 23 BLOCK 1 SEVENTH AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 950,400

RIZ-V-26 - Vacant Lot
LA 567 sqm
LOT 4 BLOCK 6 ROSAS ST., BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 748,440

RIZ-V-27 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,509 sqm
LOT 13 BLOCK 10 AZUCENA DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 1 792,692

RIZ-V-28 - Vacant Lot
LA 876 sqm
LOT 19 BLOCK 16 SUNFLOWER DRIVE EXTENSION, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 1,040,688

RIZ-V-29 - Vacant Lot
LA 669 sqm
LOT 7 BLOCK 16 SUNFLOWER DRIVE EXTENSION, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 883,080

RIZ-V-35 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,032 sqm
LOT 9 BLOCK 15 BEVERLY HILLS AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 1,463,040

RIZ-V-36 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,271 sqm
LOT 10 BLOCK 15 BEVERLY HILLS AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 915,120

RIZ-V-37 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,181 sqm
LOT 11 BLOCK 15 BEVERLY HILLS AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 850,320

RIZ-V-38 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,243 sqm
LOT 12 BLOCK 15 BEVERLY HILLS AVENUE, BEVERLY HILLS SUBDIVISION
Min. Bid Price: P 894,960

RIZ-V-39 - Vacant Lot
LA 610 sqm
LOT 11 BLOCK 5 KIRKSVILLE ST., PARKRIDGE ESTATE, MAYAMOT
Min. Bid Price: P 1,647,000

RIZ-V-40 - Vacant Lot
LA 621 sqm
LOT 26 BLOCK 5 PARKRIDGE ESTATE 1, DELA PAZ
Min. Bid Price: P 1,630,500

RIZ-V-41 Vacant Lot
LA 705 sqm
LOT 1 BLOCK 4 SHREVEPORT ST., PARKRIDGE ESTATE
Min. Bid Price: P 1,851,000

RIZ-V-42 - Vacant Lot
LA 668 sqm
LOT 17 CLIFTON ST., TOWN AND COUNTRY ESTATES
Min. Bid Price: P 2,004,000

RIZ-V-43 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,340 6 sqm
LOT 32 BLOCK 5 KING'S ROAD, VALLEY GOLF SUBDIVISION, MAYAMOT
Min. Bid Price: P 3,060,750

RIZ-L-4 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2 BR, 1TB and garage
LOT 11 BLOCK 1 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 560,625

RIZ-L-10 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse
LOT 21 BLOCK 1 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 430,912

RIZ-L-11 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 102 sqm
3-storey townhouse
LOT 2 BLOCK 2 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 449,471

RIZ-L-12 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse
LOT 11 BLOCK 3 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 554,466

RIZ-L-13 - Townhouse/Aparment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse
LOT 13 BLOCK 3 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 510,859

RIZ-L-14 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse
LOT 21 BLOCK 3 BUENOS AIRES TOWNHOMES, SUMULONG HIGHWAY
Min. Bid Price: P 489,055

RIZ-L-15 – Others
LA 213 sqm FA 445 sqm
3-storey school building with 7TB
LOT 1 BLOCK 7 EMERALD CORNER ZIRCON STS., PINES CITY ROYALE SUBD.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,245,500

RIZ-L-16 - House & Lot
LA 379 sqm FA 365 sqm
2-storey residence with 2BR and 4TB
No. 6 Humabon St., Kingsville Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,948,500

RIZ-V-45 - Vacant Lot
LA 204 sqm
LOT 56 BLOCK 83 VILLAGE EAST HOME
Min. Bid Price: P 382,500

SAN JUAN

SJ-L-1 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 45 sqm FA 123.58 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse with 2BR, 3TB and parking
UNIT 11 CRYSTAL TOWNHOMES, NO. 463 DON EJERCITO ST.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,317,125

SJ-L-2 - Town/Apartment
LA 45 sqm FA 123.58 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse with 2BR, 3TB and parking
UNIT12 CRYSTAL TOWNHOMES, NO. 463 DON EJERCITO ST
Min. Bid Price: P 2,502,495

SJ-L-3 - House & Lot
LA 391 sqm FA 224 sqm
Dilapidated house
NO. 5 MENDOZA ST. (FORMERLY C. RUIZ ST.), BO ERMITANIO
Min. Bid Price: P 4,692,000

SJ-L-4 – Condominium
FA 66 sqm
Residential condo unit with 1BR and a parking slot
UNIT 416 CLASSICA MANOR CONDO, ARAULLO CORNER MONTESSORI STS.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,426,275

SJ-L-6 – Condominium
FA 130.92 sqm
Residential condo unit with 4BR, 3TB and parking slot
UNIT 15-F GOLDLAND TOWER CONDO, EISENHOWER ST., GREENHILLS
Min. Bid Price: P 3,845,888

SJ-L-8 – Condominium
FA 322.62 sqm
Residential condo unit (2 units converted to 1) with 3BR, 3TB and balcony
UNIT 602 AND 603 CASA MADRID DE PASADENA CONDO, PASADENA DRIVE
Min. Bid Price: P 7,214,250

VALENZUELA

VAL-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,346 sqm
Lot with dilapidated school building
INTERIOR M.H. DEL PILAR ST.
MALANDAY
Min. Bid Price: P 4,434,000

VAL-L-1 - Townhouse/Apartment
LA 1,855 sqm FA 539 sqm
Unfinished 7 townhouse units
LOT 1 COLOONG 2, BGY. CALOONG
Min. Bid Price: P 7,702,500

VAL-L-2
LA 240 sqm FA 561 sqm
Unfinished residential building
LOT 7 BLK 23 SAN FRANCISCO SUBD, Tugatog
Min. Bid Price: P 1,545,750

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Investigators recover part of money stolen in Britain's biggest bank robbery

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE SAID FRIDAY they had recovered part of the money stolen in what may be Britain's biggest bank robbery but released three suspects arrested in connection with the theft.

Investigators found "a quantity of cash" in a van, the officer in charge of the investigation, Commissioner Adrian Leppard said, adding that the amount found has not yet been determined.

Television pictures showed police officers removing several apparently heavy black plastic sacks.

Police are keeping the three released suspects under observation. They earlier issued an identikit portrait of one of the robbers, a tall man with freckles and a ginger beard which Leppard said may have been fake.

The theft Thursday from a cash depot in Tonbridge, southeast of London, is believed to have netted up to 50 million pounds ($87.5 million).

A 41-year-old woman was questioned on suspicion of handling stolen goods after she was detained Thursday trying to bank a wad of banknotes at a building society (credit union) in south London.

"This woman went into the Portman Building Society in Bromley and had cash with her which she was banking and it had Tonbridge markings on it," Kent Police assistant chief constable Adrian Leppard said.

"I want to stress something to you: This woman could be completely innocent. But it was an obvious action by the building society and the Metropolitan Police (in London) at that time and we are active in the investigation."

Two other people—a 29-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman—were arrested Thursday in connection with Tuesday's audacious armed raid on the Securitas cash depot in Tonbridge, southeast of London.

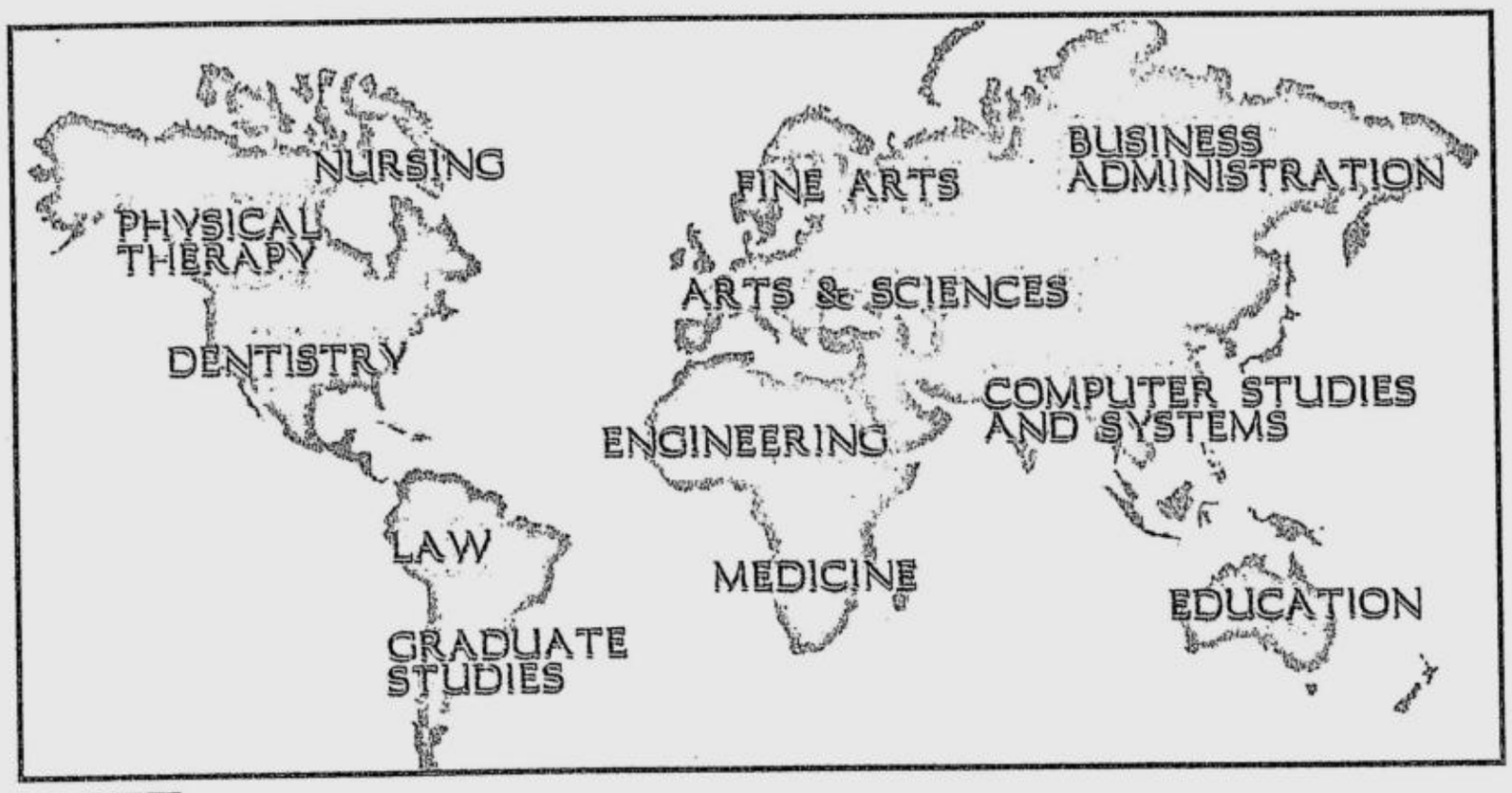
"We have got professional gangsters that we need to catch," Leppard said, stressing that several lines of inquiry have been opened. "We are going to bring these people to book."

Police said a Volvo sedan thought to have been used in the heist had been found—on fire—late Thursday in Leeds village in Kent. They have recovered four other vehicles, all of which are being combed for any forensic clues.

Detectives were still hunting for the white Renault truck used by the robbers to transport the cash—both new and used banknotes—from the depot.

Police have confirmed that 25 million pounds has been stolen, but Leppard has said that continuing investigations might put the figure "as high as 40 million, or even 50 million."

He urged people with any information to contact police, reminding them of the two million pound reward on offer. *AFP*



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MILK MAID
Recent photo supplied by the Milk Processors Education Program, shows actress and model Elizabeth Hurley, the newest got milk?/Milk Mustache campaign celebrity. Hurley, not looking like she's 40, flaunts her physique in an original Elizabeth Hurley Beach design bathing suit. The ad copy reads: (Gulp!) Shocked I'm a mom? You should know by now that milk's nine essential nutrients make for one irresistible body. AP

Bird flu claims 20th victim in Indonesia

JAKARTA—BIRD FLU HAS KILLED its 20th human victim in Indonesia, a 27-year-old woman, according to tests by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, an Indonesian health ministry official said on Saturday.

The announcement came a day after the country launched house-to-house checks on poultry in Jakarta, where 600 fowl have been culled in a bid to halt the spread of the avian flu.

"We have received the test result from CDC Atlanta. Yulia (the victim) was positive," said Hariadi Wibisono, director general of control of animal-borne disease at the health ministry.

The 27-year-old woman died last Monday after being admitted to the Sulianti Saroso hospital in Jakarta, which is designated to treat patients showing bird flu symptoms.

Local tests are not considered definitive. The CDC laboratory tests are among those recognized by the World Health Organization.

A hospital spokesperson had said the woman had contact with dead chickens in her neighborhood.

Of Indonesia's confirmed fatalities from the H5N1 virus, nine have been in 2006, making Indonesia the country with the most bird flu deaths so far this year.

So far most victims of bird flu globally have had direct or indirect contact with chickens, but there are fears the virus will mutate into a strain easily passed among people, causing a pandemic in which millions could die.

More than 90 people have been killed because of the virus worldwide.

The highly pathogenic strain of bird flu has affected birds in about two-thirds of Indonesia's provinces.

Adnan Ahmad, a senior city official, said the 600 fowl were slaughtered and burnt at various locations in Jakarta where keeping backyard chickens is a norm among the 12 million citizens and a minister has said reporting of new cases among fowl, which in turn could lead to more human cases, is not as efficient as it should be.

"So far the residents have been quite responsive in the campaign. There is no resentment from the people when we have to cull their chickens," Adnan said.

Agriculture officials estimate that Jakarta has some 500,000 fowl.

As part of the prevention drive, hundreds of inspectors continued on Saturday to scour the sprawling capital and spray disinfectant in bird cages and chicken coops.

Controlling the virus is a huge, if not impossible, task in Indonesia, an archipelago of about 17,000 islands and 220 million people.

The government has resisted the mass culling of fowl seen in some other nations, citing the expense and the impracticality in a country where the keeping of a few chickens or ducks in backyards of homes is widely practiced in cities as well as the countryside.

Agencies have concentrated instead on selective culling, and on public education and hygiene measures aimed at prevention. *Reuters*

Curfew halts Iraq bloodshed

BAGHDAD—A CURFEW IN BAGHDAD and calls for Muslim unity at Friday prayers across Iraq eased sectarian violence that has raised fears of civil war but, amid clashes after dark, police banned cars from the roads for another day.

Gunmen, some firing rockets, attacked Sunni mosques in two Baghdad districts, including the Sunnis' revered Abu Hanifa shrine, police said, adding that police and Iraqi troops repelled assailants who wore the black of Shi'ite militias.

Casualties would add to the 200 dead in Baghdad alone since reprisals against minority Sunni mosques began with a suspected al-Qaida bombing of a Shiite shrine on Wednesday pitching Iraq into its worst crisis since the US invasion of 2003.

"This is a moment of choosing for the Iraqi people," said President George W. Bush, who hopes an end to violence can let him bring US troops home. "The coming days will be intense."

"Sunni and Shiite clerics and political leaders have made great efforts and the situation is better," a senior Shiite politician said. "But ... Iraq is still in the danger zone."

Officials said the daylight curfew, imposed on Friday and largely successful in staunching sectarian bloodshed during the day, would now last for vehicles until 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Commanders said a US rapid reaction force was in position. *Reuters*

Picasso, Monet, Dali and Matisse paintings stolen from Rio museum

RIO DE JANEIRO—GUNMEN robbed a Rio de Janeiro art museum Friday of their most valuable paintings including a Picasso, Matisse, Monet and Dali, the Chacara do Ceu museum director said.

The gunmen also mugged five tourists inside the museum, director Vera de Alencar told reporters.

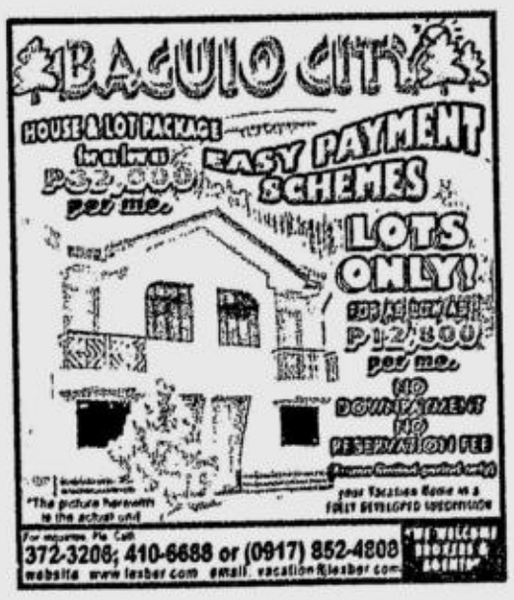
She said at least four men brandishing firearms—including one that held a hand grenade—broke into museum and made off with four paintings and a book.

Alencar said the paintings were the most valuable in the museum's collection and included Pablo Picasso's "The Dance" and a book by him titled "Toros," Claude Monet's "Marine," Henri Matisse's "Garden of Luxembourg" and Salvador Dali's "Two Balconies."

She said the robbers knew exactly what they were taking. "Dali's picture, for example, is the only one by him in public exhibition in Latin America."

There was no immediate estimate made of the value of the stolen paintings.

The gunmen forced museum staff to disconnect the alarm and camera system before the heist, then disappeared into the vast crowd of carnival goers outside as they fled. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Embracing Edsa

TWENTY YEARS IS ENOUGH TIME TO AFFORD one an objective vantage point from which to evaluate the significance, or lack of one, of a historical guidepost. But instead of objective and discerning assessments of the gains and losses of the 1986 revolution, the nation is getting a mudslide, much like the one that buried tragically a town in Southern Leyte, of recrimination, acrimony and revisionism.

EDITORIAL

Worse, perhaps, the nation is sliding into historical amnesia that not only exonerates the corrupters and oppressors of the past, but endows them with a ritual aura that somehow results in an exaltation of the period before the revolution, romanticizing it to the point that everything that came after it seemed like paradise lost. The implication here is that 20 years after Edsa, with all its squandered opportunities and dashed hopes, there has suddenly emerged a justification for the obliteration not only of the legacy of the revolution, but of people power itself. A nation of lotus eaters seems bent on romanticizing the nostalgia of dictatorship, and the fascists and crooks of the past seem to be in a unique position to regain paradise for themselves.

It does not help, of course, that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, itself the beneficiary of the Edsa legacy, is beleaguered by questions of legitimacy so that it merely risks undermining itself by a proper celebration of the revolution. Confronted with a challenge by dissident military men and their civilian cooperators who are infected with the virus of military adventurism engendered by the Marcos dictatorship, the President is hardly in a position to summon people power to shield the democratic regime. With the legitimacy of her presidency in question, she does not have the moral ascendancy to invoke people power and defend the constitutional order.

But we should resist any attack on the democratic and constitutional order. We should be reminded what Edsa was all about, and why keeping its memory alive is important. Edsa was a fight against tyranny, a struggle between good and evil. Filipinos who lived through the terrible years of the Marcos dictatorship know that Edsa was nothing short of a holy war. It was nothing short of a battle between light and darkness.

If Edsa is sometimes painted in terms of a miracle, it is not only because its victory was astounding. It was a victory against all odds. It was something totally unexpected because it violated all natural laws of reason and human calculation. It was a preternatural event.

If there are detractors of Edsa, they are those who protest its preternatural dimensions. The Marcos loyalists and many in the Left demean it as totally explicable, tracing its success to American interference and even machinations by the US Central Intelligence Agency. These were the same people who had insisted that Marcos was invincible and irremovable precisely because of American sponsorship and support. When the outcome flew in their face, they had to insist that the Americans had switched sides, in effect demeaning the people who went against Marcos' troops and tanks with nothing but a prayer and a hope that they would prevail with God's help.

There is, then, a dismissive attitude of democracy and the people among detractors of the Edsa revolution. It is a dangerous attitude because it carries within it the seeds of fascism. It is an anti-democratic attitude.

Edsa was a democratic revolution. It was a historic event because it reaffirmed the power and authority of the people to control and meet their destiny. If we hark back to the memory of Edsa, it is because we hark back to that singular moment of history in which we drew forth from the power of our solidarity and used that power to change things for the better.

Edsa's validity and power derive exactly from its memory. We hold this memory dear in the midst of so much disappointment and frustration. This memory is potent as shown by the other countries that followed its example in order to spark their own people power revolutions. Edsa signaled a democratic transition not only in the nation but also in other nations with repressive regimes. It unleashed the pro-democracy tide that swept South Korea, Poland, Hungary, Germany and the rest of the world.

The spirit of Edsa is not dead. It lives on. If not for it, we would have no vantage point from which to evaluate our democratic progress, how much we have achieved and how much we have fallen short of the ideal. Edsa remains a barometer of all of our noblest aspirations as a people. Edsa is an ideal and a hope we should continue to embrace.

The melted mountain

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT WAS INCREDIBLE EVEN AS AN IMAGINative horror story. A mountain suddenly melted into a muddy flood that descended mightily into a sleepy town below like an angry wave that could not be resisted or appeased. There was no warning, like thunder in the skies or torrential rains from the nimbus clouds. First it was there as a centuries-old part of the natural scenery, so familiar and taken for granted by the people in Southern Leyte. Then it had turned into a terrible monster from the bowels of the earth to claim the lives of unwary and innocent victims, including little children.

The staggering story filled the nation with shock and bewilderment, and, especially, compassion for the dead and the families they had loved and left. How and why did the tragedy happen? Was it a punishment from Heaven like the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their sinfulness? Was the town notorious for its wickedness as a hideout of drug traffickers or murderers or looters or the refuge of fugitives from the law they had ravished and flouted? No, it was not; it certainly was no haven for criminality and vice. It was a peaceful and God-fearing community of simple folk who earned their living through their honest efforts from the bounty of the soil and the generous seas.

For once, the politicians could not be blamed for the disaster. It could not be said that the businessmen and other carpetbaggers they were protecting had denuded the mountains and permitted the rains to inundate the lives and properties of the people in the lowland village. Neither has the calamity been imputed to the carelessness or neglect, even graft, of the government officials. Like the rest of the residents in the area, they did not apprehend any danger from the quiet mountain that looked so serene and unthreatening, like an old and companionable landmark. The accident caught everyone unaware and disproved the poetic saying that a mountain is firm and immovable amidst the strife of storms.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources gave the scientific reason for the catastrophe. It said that "the excessive rainfall during the past two weeks... saturated the hillside and the loose ground eventually gave way, causing the landslide." Even the technicians in the government could not anticipate the accident, much less the simple people many of whom still lie lost in their muddy graves. It was what is known in law as *damnum absque injuria* or a wrong that is not legally redressible.

It is small comfort, but still deeply appreciated for its sincerity and generosity, that the nation opened its heart and hands to console the survivors who must now renew their lives without their loved and lost—spouses, children, siblings and other close relatives—who had become unguarded preys of the angry mountain. No less gratefully acknowledged is the kindness of our sister states that have manifested their sympathy in material help and words of condolence. The Holy Father also offered prayers for the victims of the holocaust and their admission to the many mansions of the Lord.

It is times like these that bring the people together in a common spirit of sadness, bereavement, sympathy and assistance, and yes, eventual recovery from "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune that flesh is heir to." Misfortune, like festive occasions such as marriage and reconciliation, is a great unifier. This was touchingly displayed in the cruelty of that sudden landslide when Filipinos from all walks of life, of different faiths and social status, men and women and minors too, teenagers and even little children, gave gentle assistance to the distressed, recited simple prayers for them and voiced consoling words to make the tragedy less painful and more bearable.

It is said that "God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform," but one may still ask, without irreverence, why the victims of the tragedy had to be the inoffensive men and women, and even small children, who had pursued the "even tenor of their lives" in their quiet little village that had not known the sophistication and the hedonism of big and extravagant cities. Yet they are not alone. Millions have been killed in the wars that have devastated the world, in outbreaks of disease that even modern science has not controlled, in the concentration camps and gulags where martyrs have died for defying dictators—all of these innocent and inoffensive people have given up their lives on the unbiased scaffold of sacrifice.

And so it was with the hundreds and perhaps thousands of people who have perished in the buried barangay, many to remain unknown except in sorrowful remembrance of the kin they have left behind. The question persists like a perplexed accusation: Did they deserve their sodden fate? The question may be answered with the divine reminder that "death is the golden key that opens the portals of eternity" and makes the grieved departed, unlike us the living, blessed and finally at peace.

New wine

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE IS A STORY ABOUT A MAN WHO swallowed a live mosquito. What did he do to kill it? First, he took a mosquito coil (*katol*) and ate it, then he drank the insecticide to down it.

In today's Gospel (Mk. 2, 18-22), Jesus chides the Pharisees for their narrow-minded and absurd insistence on law and traditions, and for their refusal to pour new wine into new wineskins. We need new wine and new wineskins, a new way of looking at things, and we must not be afraid to venture into new ways of loving and serving.

* * *

For those who insist on keeping and preserving old wine, better make sure that what you are keeping is good wine, not spoiled wine. Worse, if you are preserving vinegar.

* * *

In the name of law and order, a lot of people can be served. But also, in the name of law and order, a lot of things have been stifled. In connection with our story above, do our people need to eat mosquito coil or drink insecticide to kill a mosquito swallowed alive?

* * *

There is a lot of fermentation going around us again these days. It means that we, as a people, have not lost the spirit of Edsa. It is said though that there are people who insist on taking us back to pre-Edsa. I hope they realize that there can be no going back. Never again! Tsk. Tsk. Some people never learn. No matter how some people try, there is no way to stop the fermentation of new wine.

* * *

We take time today to thank and remember the many countless people who have been crushed and trampled upon in the process of making new wine. And we take time today not only to pray but also to admonish and warn those who have crushed and continue to crush them. To them, we echo the message of Ash Wednesday (March 1 this year): "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you will return."

* * *

"Repent and believe in the Gospel." The Lenten season should remind us not only of the dos and don'ts; it should also usher us into new ways of living God's message to the fullest. Yes, it is time for new wine, full of spirit and explosiveness. It is the season of hope, with the promise that resurrection is sure to come for those who go through passion and death. Yes, there is victory in the end. Justice will triumph. Goodness will prevail. Democracy will not end.

* * *

Speaking of new wine, allow me to acknowledge a confrere, Fr. Ewald Dinter, SVD who sent us a donation of P3,000 for our Filipino Missionaries abroad. What makes it touching and significant is that the amount came from our Mangyan brothers and sisters from Mindoro. This offering from the heart, "a widow's mite," so to say, is a beautiful reminder that all of us, big or small can contribute to the fermentation of new wine.

* * *

On a personal note, I always carry with me in my car the oil for the anointing of the sick, just in case. I cannot count now the times in the past when I stopped to bless and anoint people, especially those involved in accidents. Last Thursday, Feb. 23, about 7:30 p.m. while driving through Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, I stopped to anoint two alleged holdup men who were just gunned down by the police. It was not only a stomach-churning but also a heart-breaking moment to see how life has become so cheap these days. But the challenge is there: We must bring God, we must put the new wine in the most unexpected, and especially in the most unwanted, places of our lives.

* * *

An old friend, lawyer Gregorio "Tito" Imperial just passed away. I remember him because he and my father were together in the UP Law days before the war. I especially remember him as someone who used to walk on our grounds here at Christ the King Seminary with a rosary in hand. May he remind us that we need to hold the hands of our Mother Mary as we walk on as a people and as a nation. She was with us in Edsa I. She is with us especially again at this point in time.

* * *

Let the season of Lent remind us all that life is just lent to us. We are all just passing by. No one is unchangeable and no one is indispensable in this world. We are not immigrants here. We are all pilgrims and travelers on the road.

* * *

"Did I fill the world with love?" Sooner or later, all of us will leave this world. That's the way it is. None of us will leave this world alive. We carry nothing with us when we die, but we can leave a lot of things behind. We can leave behind vinegar, or new wine.

* * *

Speaking of leaders, by all standards, Jesus was not "qualified" as a leader because: He had no degree (and yet they called Him teacher); He had no servants (and yet they called Him master); He had no medicines (and yet they called Him healer); He had no army (and yet He remains in power). Amen.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that when there is crushing and fermenting, there is new wine in the making. Amen.

People Power

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IN TIME MAGAZINE'S LATEST ISSUE, EXECUTIVE editor for Asia Anthony Spaeth, who has written many articles on the Philippines in the past, makes some observations about People Power: "In 1986, Filipinos spontaneously invented a potent political tool that has freed tens of millions of people oppressed by their rulers. But twenty years on, the phenomenon of People Power looks good just about everywhere but the place of its birth . . . . Coup attempts by disgruntled officers and soldiers are a chronic problem. Corruption never subsided and though the Philippines is one of the best educated countries in Asia—92% of Filipinos are literate—the economy has never risen to Asian Tiger status."

Perhaps, the events of the past few days have sounded the death knell for that Filipino "invention." It may still be too early to make a clear assessment of recent events, but what is obvious is that in the Philippine context, for a people power movement to succeed, three elements are needed: a critical mass on the streets, withdrawal of support by key military elements and active participation by senior church officials. All three were present in Edsa I and II; all were missing during last Friday's drama. Government security forces, both police and military, were able to deploy their units and prevent the fusion of different anti-Arroyo forces into the critical mass needed for success. There was no withdrawal of support by military units with the chain of command remaining intact. Most important of all, there was no towering figure like a Cardinal Sin to mobilize church participation. This is not to say that the situation has returned to normal. Unrest in the military will continue even as the political opposition girds up for another impeachment battle.

* * *

Actually, I had prepared a second part for my last article on the life and times of the Class of 1956 and I would like to close out my golden jubilee notes on the subject.

I mentioned last week that on April 4, 1956, our graduation day from the PMA, the headline of the Manila Times had to do with President Magsaysay's dealing with the problem of some 2,400 overstaying Chinese. Just to give you an idea of how an academy graduation rated in those days, nothing was mentioned about the event in the newspapers. The guest of honor at our commencement exercises was the number four official of the land, House Speaker Jose Laurel Jr. President Ramon Magsaysay, Vice President Carlos P. Garcia and the Senate president (I don't recall who he was) were not available. These days, it would be unthinkable for someone other than the President to be the commencement speaker at the academy.

Some 15 years after our own graduation, on April 4, 1971 the headline of the Manila Chronicle read: "FM acts to avert NP crisis"—the crisis stemmed from the Palace-inspired ouster of House Speaker Jose P. Laurel Jr., paving the way for the First Lady's candidacy in 1973. Ambassador Jose Laurel III resigned as the Philippine envoy to Japan. Rep. Cornelio Villareal of Capiz took over as speaker of the House.

Members of the class were moving up to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and after the declaration of martial law, they occupied key positions in the military and civilian bureaucracy. The Edsa Revolution would find classmates on different sides of the conflict, but the spirit of friendship and camaraderie nurtured through the years since April 1, 1952 kept the class intact.

On April 4, 1986, the INQUIRER headline was "Ongpin admits links with Kokoy." Finance Minister Jaime Ongpin had disclosed the day before that for 12 years, until he joined the Cory Aquino Cabinet, he served as an employee of former President Ferdinand Marcos' brother-in-law, Benjamin Romualdez as president of Benguet Corporation which was 60-percent owned by Romualdez.

On the same day, the class, with some exceptions, was officially retired after serving 30 years in the military service. Today, the law provides for the compulsory retirement of an officer upon reaching the age of 56, regardless of his years of service. Of the surviving 41 members of the class, 30 would become flag officers, a batting average of better than 50 percent.

One last word. At the homecoming festivities last week at Fort Del Pilar honoring the golden and silver jubilarians (Class of 1981), Karina David, chair of the Civil Service Commission, was the guest of honor and speaker. One of the few civilian personalities invited to address the corps of cadets while assembled on the parade ground of Fort Del Pilar, Karina led the different classes in trooping the line, keeping to the martial beat like a real trouper. She was also the guest speaker during the PMA alumni convention held last January at Camp Aguinaldo.

In her talk before the alumni, Karina made some interesting observations about the AFP—interesting for those in uniform: "AFP stands for looking at the institution in Awe, in Fear of our very Protectors. In awe, because when we look from the outside, when we look at the military establishment, we can see you as a mysterious group of people best in discipline, able to take on pain, very authoritarian, very hierarchical, patriotic, giving up your lives for the country—wow! But there is also fear . . . whether you like it or not, fear sets in our minds by the mere fact that people are in uniform and have a monopoly of the legal means of violence. When people know that it is led by a small group of men and women like you, bound together by personal loyalties that have been forged in an environment like the PMA—which is an environment like no other—fear sets in."

Dear Edsa baby

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I PROMISED MYSELF YEARS AGO THAT I would no longer write about you each time the Edsa anniversary rolled round. You have your own life to live, after all, and living is hard enough without having to carry the burden of symbolism and serving as a metaphor for the country. I'll spare you that.

But this is the 20th anniversary of Edsa, and as the events of the previous days show, the continuing drama of our nation's search for real freedom and democracy is still a movie-in-the-making, even if the cast keeps changing. And in my mind, in the personal film that your father and I keep of those four days on Edsa, you play a central role.

Shortly after you were born, on Feb. 26, 1986, I wrote in an article that, of all the souvenirs that Filipinos have taken away from those glorious events, I ended up with the best souvenir of all: "A young woman who will live the life we have won for her, and who, as she strikes out in directions we, her parents, can only now guess at, reminds us of everything that we have gained."

You will always be our Edsa baby. "Mom, I hate it that people will always know my age," you said a few days ago in mock dismay. The country and the world are not about to let you forget the meaning of your date of birth. But it is up to you to give meaning to the life we have given you.

* * *

YOU were at Edsa, albeit still carried around in my womb. On the morning of Feb. 23, a Sunday, hearing the call for food for the soldiers holed up in Camp Aguinaldo, your dad and I prepared sandwiches made from *queso de bola* left over from Christmas, drove to Santolan and threw over the bags of sandwiches to soldiers' eager hands. Then we approached a small group of women who seemed to be in charge and asked what we could do to help. "Please, just go home and rest," one of them said, "we don't want to be responsible for whatever happens to you here."

We were putting out daily editions of Veritas by then, and so I proceeded to the office while your dad, as he would in the next few days, rubbernecked among the crowds, witnessing first-hand, as he breathlessly related to me, the confrontation between the people and the tanks at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas. Ironically, even while I was supposed to be "safe" in our office on Panay Avenue, I would be among those subjected to tear gas, which seeped through the vents during the "battle" for the takeover of PTV-4 nearby.

On the evening of Feb. 25, hearing news that the Marcoses had fled Malacañang, your dad and I drove over to Sta. Mesa, parking the car at the foot of the bridge and walking to the Palace, waving at euphoric crowds and exchanging greetings of "Happy New Year!" "Happy Birthday!" because there were simply no words to express our jubilation. You were born the morning after, and everyone who came to visit was beaming at your wonderful sense of timing.

* * *

I WONDER sometimes what sort of life "we have won for you." How would you, and people of your generation, judge us and our efforts at making the promise come true? Especially given the events of the past two days and the "national emergency" we're confronted with, I feel like such a failure. We had been at Edsa, and at so many demonstrations and rallies before and after, to win for you and for your *kuya* a life of vaster dimensions and endless possibilities. But the future for you seems even more circumscribed than the one we faced as college students so many years ago.

I remember, for one, graduating from college and being filled with confidence about the future. I was apprehensive about finding work I enjoyed and which paid well, but I was sure I would find a job, one way or the other. But today, I sense such despair and such desperation about finding work. So many of you are choosing to find employment abroad—which was only a final option for many of us—and giving up on ever finding fulfillment here, among your people, decrying not just the poverty but more so the corruption and cynicism.

How many of those among you still believing in our country, watched the unfolding events and have just decided to throw in the towel and pursue the foreign option?

* * *

HOW have you turned out, my Edsa baby?

In many ways, you embody your generation. From your stories, and your indignant reactions to the more polemic among your teachers and student leaders at the state university, you have a visceral dislike for anyone, including your parents, telling you what you should think and feel. You are cynical about all sorts of isms, and harbor doubts about moral certainties and inflexible ideologies.

Being a debater, you choose to believe instead in "matter," in facts and statistics, in reasoned analysis and in arguing your way to a resolution. I once told you that "matter" should be sought as a way to understand the world, not just to win an argument. But I like that you never take our word for it, that you would rather ferret out the facts and arrive at your own conclusions.

But I also sense a deep romantic streak, one nurtured from the books you have read, the stories you have heard, the movies you have watched, and which we have stored on DVDs, the better to watch over and over when the mood hits us.

Last Friday, hearing I was on my way to Ayala for the huge rally led by Tita Cory, you texted me: "People are getting arrested *na*. If you're going to the rally, please be careful." I noted with dismay how it was now my child issuing warnings, in place of my parents and husband. But I also recognized that while joining protests was my way of living up to my generation's challenges, you had found your own way to live up to yours, and that I should just let you be.

The day after

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

FERDINAND MARCOS AND GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo—in their uncanny parallel ways—show that the easy part of power is seizing it. The difficult part is using it with wisdom and restraint. This is where most extra-legal takeovers falter. Their objectives remain too general; the limits of their intervention are left undefined.

The Philippines had fairly stable formal institutions until 1972. We had an independent judiciary, a professional civil service, a free press, an apolitical military, an acceptable electoral process, an autonomous and modern educational system, etc. Most of these were legacies from the American colonial period. It is not to say they were democratic in any real sense, for indeed they were very much loaded in favor of the elite. But in the sense that they were relatively insulated from politics, we can say they were formally democratic.

Marcos changed the rules of the game in 1972 when he seized upon the martial law provision of the Constitution to install one-man rule under an indefinite state of emergency. One of the objectives of the martial law proclamation was "to extirpate the roots of the insurgency"—a goal large enough to encompass a wide range of interventions. Marcos intervened in the work of an ongoing constitutional convention, jailed some of its members, and dictated its final product. Under this new Constitution, he legalized the exercise of authoritarian powers. By closing its eyes to the illegal manner by which the 1973 Constitution was ratified, the Supreme Court became one of the first institutional casualties of martial law.

As dictator, Marcos intervened in every conceivable area of the national life—in the economy, in education, in the armed forces, in the bureaucracy, in the mass media, in culture and the arts, in science and technology. Political incursion into these various spheres naturally overburdened the bureaucracy. The technocrats in the regime began to worry over this, and sought in their own ways to limit the scope of presidential intervention. One good example of this attempt was the program of the Development Academy of the Philippines under Dr. O.D. Corpuz to institute a career executive service officers (Ceso) system. The Ceso aimed to produce a generation of modern professional civil servants and public managers that could be deployed to the different agencies of government.

These initiatives, however, were not strong enough to arrest the growing dysfunctionality of an over-centralized system. The politicization of the military was perhaps one of the more dangerous outcomes of the Marcos experiment. Marcos came to depend almost exclusively on his loyalist generals to stay in power. This did not sit well with the young officer corps who became increasingly resentful, and eventually mounted a coup against the regime.

Were it not for the accident of people power, the Marcos regime would likely have been replaced by a provisional military-civilian junta. People power made it possible for Cory in 1986 to re-establish a purely civilian government based on the configurations of the pre-martial law political system. Starting out on a maximum agenda aimed at reversing the effects of 14 years of authoritarian rule, the first Edsa government unfortunately found itself retreating by the day from its original intentions. It sought to rebuild political institutions but ended up restoring an obsolete political system based on patronage and corruption. But even so, many vital institutions like the Commission on Elections and the judiciary were able to regain their autonomy and credibility during this period.

Joseph Estrada, an outsider to the Edsa constituency, ironically became the first beneficiary of a reformed electoral process. Carried on the wings of a massive populist vote, Erap came to the presidency in 1998 with all the right ideas about modern governance. But the logic of a political system run on patronage proved irresistible. He was eventually unseated in 2001.

Edsa II placed the Supreme Court once more on the spot. The Court liberally interpreted the Constitution to legitimize Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's accession to the presidency. I believe that single act compromised its autonomy. It set the parameters for its subsequent rulings on questions affecting Ms Arroyo's political standing.

The greater blame for the destruction of our institutions must, however, be laid at Ms Arroyo's door. In opting to secure a full six-year term in the 2004 presidential election, she compounded the problems of legitimacy arising from Edsa II. She found herself exploiting the weaknesses of the electoral process in the hope that the moral majority would understand and close its eyes to her "lapses." She juggled public funds and exploited the accounting system of various agencies to finance her campaign. But more than this, she abused the prerogatives of her office by enlisting the military to support her political ambitions, and then openly rewarding those who helped her. In less than five years, Ms Arroyo has wrecked the whole institutional healing process that was set in motion in 1986.

At 9 a.m., on Feb. 24, 1986, 20 years ago, Marcos went live on Channel 4, surrounded by his generals, to announce a nationwide state of emergency. How uncanny that Ms Arroyo should choose the same date to announce the same draconian measure to suppress the same perceived conspiracy supposedly between the extreme Left and the extreme Right. Marx was indeed right: "Events and personages occur at least twice in history—the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce."

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Waking to Edsa

THEY SAY EDSA IS DEAD. THE PEDESTAL HAS COLLAPSED, leaving one more casualty of the Philippine circus. The promise of People Power, Cory Aquino's jubilant announcement of "freedom from 20 years of oppression, hardship, repression, injustice, corruption, greed, waste and near-despair" has never seemed as impossible as it now seems.

What happened after People Power 1986? Coup attempt after coup attempt, two cracks at impeachment, etc. 1986 was supposed to be the beginning of a new chapter for the Philippines.

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

Today, 20 years later, another woman president, placed in office by People Power, is fending off assaults on her legitimacy. The country has just been declared in a state of emergency, and I have just witnessed one of my academic idols being hauled off to jail.

I don't have the ascendancy to judge the state of affairs. I'm one of those college kids who shrieked ecstatically when classes were called off last Friday, happily assuming it was because the President wanted to celebrate the 1986 revolution instead of seeing it as a sign of greater evils to come.

But while the country languishes under a state of emergency, many are pointing a finger at what started it all: the revolution of 1986. They say it was a faction of the elite overthrowing another faction of the elite; a useless, pointless exercise that led nowhere—except that it left a legacy that has regularly upset the rule of law.

I was 5 months old when people pushed back tanks in Edsa. My generation grew up with the magic, the lore and the mythology of the peaceful revolution. Fidel Ramos, Juan Ponce Enrile and Corazon Aquino were my heroes. June Keithley was the person I wanted to grow up into. The Americans have their Statue of Liberty, the French have their art, and, by God, we had Edsa!

For 14 years, Marcos and his martial law ruled the Philippines. What used to be called the freest press in Southeast Asia fell silent. People were picked up off the streets without warning, and the means for torture ranged from sexual molestation to strangulation. Congress was abolished, a curfew implemented and the right to strike removed. What opposition still remained languished in jail cells or lived in exile. People lived in fear.

Back then, an American senator reportedly commented, "The Philippines is a nation of 60 million cowards and one son of a b__h."

Then Ninoy Aquino was assassinated. A man was suddenly made a martyr before the eyes of a disbelieving world. Snap elections were called three years later and, as expected, colossal cheating took place all over the country. One poll watcher was found dead with a bloodied Namfrel handbook beneath his body.

Then on Feb. 21, 1986, a critical mass from the "60 million cowards" gathered in Edsa. Some were trembling in fear, others stoic, and hundreds more singing, praying, and offering flowers.

The People Power Apocalypse, as Nick Joaquin called the four days of Edsa, was more than just the peaceful overthrow of a tyrannical leader. It was a milestone in the history of a nation when its citizens collectively decided according to their own will and conscience that they have had enough. And the world watched in wonder. According to Han Sung-Joo of the Asiatic Research Center, "As never before, people throughout the world became passionately involved in the hour-by-hour development of events in a faraway political country."

"For a stunning moment, the essential impulse stood up for all to marvel at," said Time Magazine. "There before your eyes a thought became a decision became a deed, with no other impetus than that a people realized they had a claim on their own souls."

They say Edsa did nothing for us. I disagree. I'm sitting in front of my computer, gleefully pounding out a column that will never be censored because the generation before me made sure I had that right. When the Randy Davids and Walden Bellos of the world are thrown in jail, we can demand to know why. But those are just the "at leasts."

The country is in turmoil, the government is in chaos, and thousands are leaving for better chances. We messed up big time, and we have no one to blame but ourselves. Many things have not changed since 1986. Many more have gotten worse. The Philippines was given a wonderful chance to turn itself around, and it didn't. But the incompetence of the country's leaders and the failure of the citizens to be a vanguard against a new evil can't take away the triumph that was Edsa 1986.

We celebrate Edsa, not because of what happened to the Philippines after, but because of what happened during those four days in February 1986. It is a fairy tale of mammoth proportions: a ruthless dictator vanquished by a long-afraid, long-oppressed people wielding only flowers, rosaries and red lunch boxes. Because of Edsa, as this newspaper put it in 1986, "Every Filipino in the world today stands a little taller and a little prouder."

People power in 1986 inspired millions of other oppressed peoples the world over to take their future in their hands. In South Korea, thousands of citizens stormed the streets to throw out their own Marcos. Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Indonesia followed suit. We had our Yellow Revolution, Ukraine had its Orange, Georgia had its Rose, Kyrgyzstan its Tulip, and Lebanon its Cedar Revolution. The Czechs overthrew Milosevic. No matter what happens, that will not change.

I was too young to be in Edsa, but I'm old enough to accept reality without being disillusioned. As Krip Yuson said in his prologue to the spectacular new book "Heroes," the story of Edsa can "awaken the youth, alert them to possibilities of heroism for honor, country and freedom."

I'm awake, and I'm still proud.

THEY SAID

Relatives in Congress

"When the issue of term extensions is brought up, there is deafening silence even from the opposition. It seems everybody has relatives everywhere."

—Rep. Teodoro Locsin, before the House committee on constitutional amendments approved his motion to reject any proposals to extend the terms of local officials and legislators

Painful news

"How will I tell my husband that our child is dead?"

—Myrna Book whose daughter was one of many who died in a stampede at the PhilSports Arena

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TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Edsa I and the Left

AS THE SAYING GOES, VICTORY HAS MANY FATHERS, BUT defeat is an orphan. This aptly applies to the coup d'état attempt that turned into an uprising that toppled the Marcos dictatorship 20 years ago.

Claiming credit for the uprising, which is also called a revolt, a revolution and, sometimes, a miracle depending on who is talking, are the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, the military units that later joined the rebels, the Catholic Church, the Social Democrats, and the ordinary people.

Of course, Fidel Ramos, Juan Ponce Enrile, Jaime Cardinal Sin, Corazon Aquino, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, and Ronald Reagan also played key roles in the historic event that became a template for people power events in other parts of the globe.

The Left is often relegated to the sidelines. But its legal and underground organizations played a significant role in ousting Marcos. Contrary to the dominant view, organizations of the Left were not only at Edsa, but also at the Mendiola Bridge near Malacañang and other places outside Metro Manila during the four days that shook the world.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

'It was a convergence of various forces'

By Jose Maria Sison

IT IS FACTUALLY WRONG AND UNhistorical to airbrush from the so-called Edsa I the two reality levels of what is loosely called Left: the protracted people's war led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (you may call it the underground Left) and the legal patriotic and progressive forces (the legal Left) of the national democratic movement best represented by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

You cannot deny that the Left, especially the armed revolutionary movement, had consistently fought the Marcos fascist dictatorship since long before the US, the Catholic hierarchy and the Enrile-Ramos-RAM tandem decided to junk Marcos in the wake of the Aquino assassination that paved the way for the presidential candidacy of Corazon Aquino. The US and most of the local reactionary forces supported Marcos for a long time and decided to get rid of him only when they feared that the people, the Left and even a substantial part of the Aquino electoral following would move together in a direction threatening to the life of the entire ruling system.

Tactical error

You must take into account the long-term importance of the Left in the struggle against the Marcos autocracy. The boycott policy of the CPP was a tactical error for the duration of the presidential electoral campaign in 1986 because it separated the CPP-led masses from the bigger masses that attended the pro-Aquino electoral rallies. An informal alliance with Aquino could still be maintained even as she had come under the advice of the US (specifically Richard Holbrooke and the CIA station chief) in November 1985 to keep the Left out of her campaign organization and even as she had snubbed all approaches of Bayan for a formal alliance after her meeting with Holbrooke..

You must distinguish the boycott policy from the decision of the CPP to call for the immediate overthrow of the Marcos fascist regime after the snap election in which Marcos won by Comelec count and by Batasang Pambansa proclamation, as the CPP had predicted. The CPP decision to call for the overthrow of Marcos because of electoral fraud came ahead of Aquino's call for civil disobedience and the pastoral letter of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines denouncing the Marcos regime as illegitimate and immoral.

The CPP contributed immensely to the success of the mass uprisings at Edsa and elsewhere by calling on the masses in the rural and urban masses to participate and by asking allied forces to do their best. The CPP was not at all permanently disabled by its previous boycott policy and by the failure of the leadership to see clearly before and during the electoral campaign that the US had pushed Marcos to call for snap election so that he would subsequently be overthrown for electoral cheating, as in the earlier case of Duvalier in Haiti.

Radio Veritas

Now, we focus on the days of Feb. 22 to Feb. 25, from the day that the RAM coup attempt failed until the people's mass uprising cum military withdrawal of support succeeded in overthrowing Marcos. Cardinal Sin and the CBCP were decisive in using Radio Veritas and the broadcast facilities of the Communications Foundation of Asia to call on the people to give succor to Enrile, Ramos and the RAM after their failed coup attempt.

Bayan was decisive in rallying its organized masses immediately to the front of Isetann Cubao upon the call of Butz Aquino for help. It constituted the hard core of the masses (at least 20 percent of the entire masses) at Edsa at the peak. Five hundred members of Bayan Quezon City accompanied Col. Santiago to capture the TV Channel 4 compound. After the transfer of Enrile, Ramos and RAM from Camp Aguinaldo to Camp Crame, Bayan chairman former Senator Tañada and other Bayan leaders were at the planning room in Camp Crame until the US helicopter rescued Marcos and his family and staff from the irate masses at the gates of the palace.

Edsa I uprising was not limited to Edsa. You should not airbrush the masses led by the progressive religious of Christians for National Liberation, the Kilusang Mayo Uno and the League of Filipino Students who concentrated on Mendiola and then on the gates of the presidential palace after they valiantly did away with the barricades. If those that assembled at Edsa were decisive in protecting the failed coup leaders, rallying the biggest mass of demonstrators and encouraging the military to withdraw support from Marcos, those that assembled in front of the palace were decisive in compelling Marcos to flee after a RAM-piloted helicopter dropped grenades on the palace roof and the US announced that it would withdraw military support from Marcos should he use force to stay in power. At any rate, Ambassador Bosworth, the CIA station chief and General Ileto were busy from day 1 of the Edsa I days, tying the hands of Marcos according to instructions from Philip Habib who was the crisis manager at the level of the US National Security Council.

Most organized

Also, the people's uprising was not limited to the national capital region. Bayan had the most organized masses rising up against the Marcos fascist dictatorship and neutralizing the pro-Marcos local officials in so many provincial capitals, cities and key municipalities. Bayan Angeles City stopped on its tracks the tank convoy of Gen. Palafox. Gen. Renato de Villa put his command and personnel in alliance with Bayan Bicol in order to serve notice to Marcos that Edsa had a deep reserve in the provinces.

Let us recap and go comprehensive. What was the most decisive force or what were the most decisive forces in the overthrow of Marcos? I would point to the broad masses of the people that showed up at Edsa and before presidential palace. But I dare not single out any of the organized forces as the most decisive, without clear qualification. It was a convergence of various forces that overthrew the Marcos regime. Various forces were decisive in their respective ways.

The legal and underground Left were most important and decisive in contributing the most tested and most organized masses that served as hard core of the broad masses at Edsa and elsewhere. But certainly the most decisive in emasculating Marcos within the ruling system and at the same time keeping the ruling system intact were the US, the Catholic hierarchy, the business groups, Aquino and her followers and those high Marcos bureaucrats and military officers who turned against Marcos.

(Sison is the founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines . I chief political consultant of the N· ional Democratic Front.)

'We tried to adjust'

By Loretta Ann P. Rosales

WE BOYCOTTED THE snap election called by Marcos because we thought he would not give way to Cory.

We overestimated the US support for Marcos because we did not see the dynamics in the US government—that the Treasury Department, White House, State Department are influenced by the military and the people.

We said, "given the situation that the US will not give up Marcos and Marcos will still hold power despite this electoral effort, the only way to get rid of Marcos is through mobilizations."

We also lost confidence in the ability of the masses to move on their own, and we overlooked the cracks in the military.

We were aware that the opposition—Cory et al.—was capable of mobilizations, but we were not aware of their strength.

Civil disobedience

After the election, Marcos issued threats and some middle forces came to us. They said "you are right." A few days after, the opposition recovered its footing and Cory called for civil disobedience. Boycott San Miguel. Boycott the crony press.

The boycott was strong. That was between Feb. 7 and Feb. 22. We said we should launch our own mobilizations.

That's when I went to Mindanao. There was a major rally in Davao City organized by Bebot Bello, who was by then no longer for Bayan (Bagong Alyansang Makabayan), but for the opposition.

He contacted me because Cory, who was in Cebu, could not fly to Davao for security reasons. He suggested that I grace the occasion in lieu of Cory.

The people, spontaneously, following the leadership of the opposition under Cory, came in big numbers. That we could not grasp.

Alienated

Then I was called to speak. When I stood up, a sea of people shouted "Cory! Cory!" I was shocked. I felt so alienated.

I could not understand why they were shouting "Cory!" All the while Bayan explained to them that the election was a battle of the elite and we must continue with mobilizations to dismantle the Marcos regime.

For several seconds, I could not speak. Of course, when I spoke it didn't mean a thing to them. I was trying to explain the situation.

I went home on Feb. 22. By then Cardinal Sin was already calling on the people and Butz Aquino to defend the military.

Sacrifices

What tilted the balance against Marcos was the accumulation of strength built up by the Left. There were many sacrifices. Many died. Many went underground.

The armed contingent contributed to the accumulation of strength and consolidation of forces against Marcos.

This accumulation of strength was what finally gave confidence to the national politicians who later came to us and started joining us, except for such stalwarts such as Lorenzo Tañada who was our chair all throughout, and Ambrosio Padilla who was our president.

Then of course there was Pepe Diokno in the JaJa (Justice for Aquino Justice for All) days. We had people such as JBL Reyes joining us. We had a great group. But we committed errors. We were overconfident. For instance, when we founded Bayan, we decided that the people who should be in the national council should be mostly us. The only one who stuck it out with us was Tañada. Even Diokno left. Then the Social Democrats left, Bandila, etc. That was the first Bayan congress in 1985.

Bayan would have been a broad alliance. But it was not democratic. It bullied.

Reluctant

That was a major error. The second, bigger error was the boycott of the snap election. I was a reluctant follower of the boycott line because I always thought one had to be with the people. We would be marching, screaming militantly and the people would be watching us. Alex Padilla said, "Etta, the crowd is going the other way. We're losing them."

We tried to adjust according to the situation at Edsa. Bayan had no banners there because we knew that we did not initiate it.

We roamed Edsa. We talked to the masses. They also loved us, but we committed a mistake. The masses were not angry with us. The leaders of the Yellow Group, Cory Aquino group, were because we boycotted the election.

The Left did not exercise leadership at Edsa, but it was there. We interacted with the people. Our heart was with them. Whether or not we exercised leadership in the final ouster of Marcos, the point is the victory against Marcos was something we should share.

I too was very happy when Marcos left. But we were disoriented because things did not happen the way we thought they should happen. We took a very dogmatic and rather sectarian stand that failed to grasp the realities on the ground.

(Excerpts from an interview with Rosales, the director of the Popular Struggles Commission of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan when Edsa I broke out. She is now an Akbayan party-list representative.)

Workers' struggle morphed into an uprising

By Crispin Beltran

LONG BEFORE EDSA I, the Left had been fighting the dictatorship. The workers were part of that struggle. The Kilusang Mayo Uno took part in the anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist struggle.

It was a continuous, hard and long struggle. Our organizers were imprisoned (I myself was jailed for a long time). Many others died.

By 1986, we were about 520,000, composed of nine full-blown federations. It was also the time when we had a big alliance with so-called company unions and government-supportive unions.

Because of our struggle, others sectors were enlightened. Before if you ask them, "Are you in favor of what the KMU is fighting for?" They would not answer immediately. But through painstaking struggle, along with other factors like the deteriorating economic and political situation, we won them over to our side.

That struggle metamorphosed into an uprising in February 1986.

The promise of Edsa was transformation of Philippine society from fascism to democracy, from poverty to satisfaction of human wants.

In addition, Marcos should have been punished. That did not happen.

(Excerpts from an interview with Beltran, the vice chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in February 1986. He is now an Anakpawis party-list representative.)

'No concept of partial victory'

By Ricardo Reyes

THE MORE ACCURATE WAY OF POSing the problem is: Why was the Left left behind during the final days from the snap polls to the four-day revolt? A number of reasons:

1) The strategic framework at that time did not include the concept of partial victory, which may involve sharing power even as a minority as a result of insurrectionary upheavals; this was admitted officially by the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines not directly but by forwarding a conceptual design for the crisis of governance, which hit the administration of Corazon Aquino after the 1989 coup d'état: launch offensives both political and military, which will lead to an uprising where the Left may gain a minority share in state power.

2) Tactics-wise, the CPP policy of boycotting the snap elections put it in a position that was directly opposed to the sentiments and actions of the large mass of the working people and the middle classes, and patriots in the upper layers in the urban areas and many parts of the countryside. Thus, the marginalization at that moment.

3) The boycott policy even as a tactic was not processed enough even according to CPP organizational rules. Such a major policy must be deliberated upon at the very least by the CPP Politburo and ideally, by the Central Committee (CC). But the five-person CPP executive committee (EC) took it upon itself to make the decision. Thus, the later CPP Politburo April 1986 decision criticizing the boycott decision of the EC and its violation of CPP rules.

Divergent views

But the larger issue is the democratic processing of a major policy at a time when divergent views on how to deal with the snap elections were strongly coming out from among the regional committees and the general membership. What became highlighted was the utter weakness of inner-Party democracy for a long period of time.

4) Parts of the CPP organization like Mindanao where the insurrectionary spirit of the masses were developing fast in complementation with daring and effective armed actions of the New People's Army were hobbled by the effects of the anti-dpa campaign—the Kahos.

Sad to say, yes, the party leadership was caught flatfooted by Edsa I.

But it was something waiting to happen. The dictatorship was unraveling fast in 1985: sustained mass protests, the appearance of RAM, political forces forwarding a post Marcos scenario and Marcos and his ilk unable to come up with a fresh formula to overcome the political and economic crisis. The US started to send signals that it was distancing itself from Marcos. A US policy option paper—NSSD document—described Marcos as "part of the problem and part of the solution."

Power sharing

Various possibilities were cropping up:

1) A power sharing between Marcos and his elite rivals; 2) A Marcos ouster by a combination of mass pressure and coup d'état; and 3) A violent crackdown on all anti-Marcos forces to save Marcos rule. But tactics-wise, the Party leadership did not seriously prepare for all possibilities, especially that of the Marcos ouster by a broad front of all anti-Marcos forces. The EC boycott decision paper gave so much weight to Marcos surviving and warning of a possibility of a power sharing formula among elite factions.

The situation was very fluid and the anti-Marcos forces kept holding the initiative. The snap election campaign was showing strong signs that the balance of forces were tilting in favor of the Aquino-led forces. Ouster was a strong possibility. But the EC limited its sights. The EC's fault lies in bringing the Party to a position, which frontally opposed the broad mass sentiment and actions, thus isolating it from the main current of the antidictatorship struggle and making it vulnerable to marginalizing maneuvers by the elite forces. To repeat, the EC's fault lies at the tactical level and in restricting effective discourse to a few and decision-making to itself. At the strategic level, the CC should be faulted for affirming a limiting strategic framework.

Stuck

The Left got stuck in one corner as a result of the boycott call. It was the anti-Marcos elites led by Aquino, and later joined by Enrile and Ramos, which seized the leadership of the antidictatorship struggle. After Marcos had his Batasang Pambansa declare him winner of the snap election, the Party tried to prepare for a *welgang bayan*. But it was too late. The four-day Edsa revolt was fast coming.

The April 1986 Politburo meeting declared the boycott decision a major tactical error and criticized the EC for making a vital decision that rightly is bestowed only to the Politburo or CC by the Party Constitution and rules.

(Reyes is a former member of the CPP Politburo.)

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Flower fest bore signs of unrest in GMA gov't

SOME of the floats in the flower parade bore the signs of the times.
TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—FLOWERS ARE THE MOTIF FOR the annual Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival. But on its 11th staging here on Saturday, the flowers drew varied meanings for people mulling President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency.

Some Metro Manila residents left the capital for Baguio to escape the political crisis by watching Panagbenga.

"It's literally hot there in Manila. We were about to attend the rally in Edsa [to commemorate its 20th anniversary], but [we] decided to come [to Baguio] instead," said Reggie Paglinawan of Sampaloc, Manila.

Paglinawan was wearing his original yellow "Cory Aquino for President Movement" shirt, which jibed with one of the dominant colors of the first parade in this year's festival.

The flowers worn by participants from Tanudan, Kalinga, "expressed hope for me," said a visitor who only wanted to be identified as Karina.

She spent an hour waiting for the parade by reading the news.

As early as 7 a.m., rows of Baguio residents were busy poring over newspaper accounts of the state of emergency declaration on the sidewalks of Session Road.

The Saturday parade was one of two independent festival highlights that were produced this year by two contending organizers.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon invited dancers and drum and lyre corps from Manila, Pasig City, Naguilian town in La Union, Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Cavite, and Pangasinan to showcase costume and dance highlights of festivals that emerged after Panagbenga was developed in 1995.

The Department of Tourism refers to Panagbenga as the model by which other local government-sponsored festivals are developed in the country.

Yaranon said he wanted to showcase the multicultural legacy of the festival.

But residents and visitors who watched the parade shrieked as the float bearing the "housemates" of the hit reality television show "Pinoy Big Brother" passed them.

Many people, most of them carrying camera phones, spilled to the street and followed the float to take snapshots of the housemates led by grand winner Nene Tamayo, Sam Milby, Say Alonzo, JB Magsaysay, Chx Alcala, Franzen Fajardo and Cassandra Ponti, among others.

Mayor not yet cleared of slay

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE DEPARTment of Justice has ordered a new investigation of the possible link of Mayor Jaime Ylarde of Dingalan, Aurora, to the 2005 murder of a local publisher.

In a three-page resolution, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco referred to the National Bureau of Investigation and the police the "further investigation of the possible involvement of Ylarde, as well as of other persons," in the murder of Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin.

The order was dated Jan. 26 but Agustin's relatives received it only on Feb. 24.

There were "not enough (pieces of) evidence" at this point to establish the involvement of the mayor in the May 10, 2005 murder, Velasco said in the resolution ending the case's preliminary investigation.

He said the second extra-judicial confession of one of the three suspects, Reynaldo Morete, was not enough to link Ylarde to the crime.

Morete, Velasco said, made several inconsistencies in his two affidavits even as he claimed that he witnessed Ylarde order two other suspects, Nilo Morete and Manuel Alday, in April 2005 to kill Agustin for a series of stories that exposed the mayor's alleged use of disaster funds. The Moretes are cousins.

The killing happened in the house of Agustin's daughter a few hours after the publisher arrived in Dingalan to deliver the copies of his newsweekly's special issue on Ylarde's supposed misuse of public funds.

Agustin was the 67th journalist killed since 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines.

In the DOJ resolution, the Moretes, Alday and several unidentified persons were ordered indicted for the murder.

However, the police have yet to arrest Nilo Morete alias Boyet and Alday, also known as Anuel. They were last seen in Dingalan on Dec. 31 last year, reports said.

'Tsunami' scare sparks evacuation

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Thousands of residents from the coastal towns of Dauin, Zamboanguita, Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Bayawan and Basay fled their homes and sought the safety of higher ground Thursday over a rumor that a tsunami was going to hit southern Negros Oriental Thursday night.

The tsunami rumor started from a text message that circulated like wildfire after an Intensity 7.8 earthquake struck somewhere in Africa Thursday morning.

A tsunami that killed thousands of people across Asia in December 2004 was triggered by a landslide in Indonesia.

Police have already declared the text message as a fraud Thursday night, but there was no more time to stop the evacuation. Melvin Ramon Buenafe, Negros Oriental police provincial director, said the text message was originally sent by someone from Hong Kong who sent the text message to relatives in Negros Oriental after hearing about the African earthquake.

On Apo Island, off the coast of Dauin town, nearly half of 1,000 residents walked more than 300 steps uphill to seek safety near the island's lighthouse.

PHILIPPINE PEDIATRIC SOCIETY, INC.

43rd Annual Convention

April 2-5, 2006 • Philippine International Convention Center

"Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources"

MESSAGES

It is with great honor and pleasure that I invite all pediatric health care providers to the forthcoming 43rd Annual Convention of the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. to be held on April 2-5, 2006 at the Philippine International Convention Center with the theme "Optimizing Pediatric Health Care Utilizing Limited Resources". The Organizing Committee chaired by Dr. Melinda M. Atienza and co-chaired by Drs. Ma. Louisa U. Peralta and Emilio A. Hernandez, has prepared a comprehensive scientific programme which will address the challenges we frequently meet in pediatric practice in a developing country like the Philippines, with prevailing constraints and limitations in terms of diagnostic tools and budgets, as we exert our best efforts to deliver optimum health care. Rather than bemoan our plight we need to adopt innovative and cost-effective ways to achieve our goal of promoting child health and well-being and improve child survival.

The convention will address both current and future issues in pediatric practice in an Asian setting. Eminent international, regional and local speakers have been invited to deliver the updates.

We look forward to welcoming you all at the Philippine International Convention Center for an interesting, challenging, intellectually rewarding and enjoyable convention. Let us continue to work in unity to achieve our ultimate goal: healthy children in a healthy world

Thank you and MABUHAY!

ESTRELLA B. PAJE-VILLAR, MD
President
Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.

Through the years, the Philippine Pediatric Society Inc. has presented timely and relevant scientific gatherings which served as dynamic venues for productive and pro-active intellectual exchanges. For the past 42 years, topics from "basic pediatrics to cyberpediatrics" have enriched the content and conduct of our national conventions. This year, the Organizing Committee of the 43rd Annual Convention has decided to highlight the plight of modern day Filipino pediatricians living in difficult yet challenging times. With the theme, "OPTIMIZING PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE UTILIZING LIMITED RESOURCES", the PPS confronts the issues and conflicts that we all face as frontliners for child healthcare trying to make both clinical and economic endpoints meet without compromising one over the other. This year's convention aims to guide the modern day Filipino pediatrician as he struggles to provide optimum care for children vis-a-vis the "economic, social and even political" limitations of our working environment. This year's theme brings into a unique collaboration some of the world's leading figures in contemporary pediatrics and some of the most respected local pediatricians in our country. This meeting of the minds will hopefully bring out the best in both spectrums as we collectively search for the "answers and solutions" to the "questions and problems" we face in our daily pediatric practice.

There can be no better time than today to select a theme that best reflects how we are striving to strike a balance between "giving the best and spending the least". Thus, "optimizing pediatric health care utilizing limited resources" is not only a convention concept. It is a "fact of life". A fact so true, we all live it. A fact so real, we all want to be part of it.

The Filipino pediatrician remains to be a unique specimen of the human race. Not only because he can thrive in times of hostility and adversity, but more importantly because he can survive with pride and integrity the rigors of change and uncertainty.

So come Convention Day, be there, be present and be felt. Only when you go home better, empowered and enlightened can we truly declare the 43rd Annual PPS Convention an authentic success.

MELINDA MILLARES-ATIENZA, MD
Over-All Chairperson
43rd Annual Convention
Philippine Pediatric Society Inc.

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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Pre-Convention Workshop
- Treatment of Diarrhea
- Pre-Operative Guidelines

Plenary Sessions
- The Global Perspective of Children's Health in Developing Countries
- Standards of Newborn Care for Developing Countries
- Avian Flu Virus: Are we near the next pandemic?
- Global problem of Tuberculosis: The Continuing Saga
- Allergies in Asthma and Atopic Dermatitis - Facts and Fallacies
- Family Centered Community Based Program to Improve Child Survival
- Clinical Recognition of Mental Retardation
- Pneumonias in Developing Countries
- What is Virginity? The Philippine consensus on the interpretation of medical findings in child sexual abuse
- The Emergency Room is NOT an OPD
- FUO Work-up Utilizing Limited Resources

Simultaneous Symposia

The DOH and Media: Our Links in Caring for the Child
- Broadcast Media and Pediatric Health Care • DOH Programs for Environmental Health Fyi • Charity Foundations and Pediatric Health Care Updates on Immunization • 2006 PIDSP Recommendations on Immunization • 2006 AAP Recommendations on Immunization • New Vaccines

Neonatology/Pediatric Surgery
- Breastfeeding Strategies for Sick Infants • The Limits of Conservative Management in Necrotizing Enterocolitis • Newborn Resuscitation Using Limited Resources

Hematology /Oncology
- Transfusion in the Pediatric Setting: Anemia not responsive to Hematinics • When to Suspect Bleeding Disorders in Children • CPGs for Pediatric Malignancies

PSPME/Genetics
- Newborn Screening – A Situationer Report • Childhood Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome • Metabolic Bone Diseases

Ambulatory Pediatrics
- Preventive Pediatrics: The 2006 Compilation of Local Guidelines • Professional Fees – Should there be Standardization? • What's new in Pediatric Dentistry?

Medical Informatics
- Video Editing • Vector Graphics

Nephrology
- Obesity and Hypertension • The Newborn Kidney: Handle with Care

Pulmonology/Critical Care
- MRSA in Pediatric Community Acquired Pneumonia • The Many Facets Of Airway Hyperresponsiveness • Special Needs of Critically Ill Children

Medico Legal/ Ethics
- Off Label Drug Prescriptions • SMS/ Phone Consultation: Should we or Shouldn't we? • Physician Drug Dispensing: Risky Business

Rheumatology/ Cardiology
- Kawasaki Disease • Recognition of Connective Tissue Diseases in Children • Guide to the Use of the New International Reference Standards (IRS) • Updates in the Management of Diarrhea • Guidelines in Infant and Young Child Feeding

Evidence Based Guidelines in Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- CPGs on Dengue A Status Report • CPGs on Childhood Tuberculosis: Diagnosis and Management • Newer Diagnostic Modalities in the Diagnosis of TB

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- Research Activities
- Annual Research Paper Contest
- Inter-Hospital Quiz Contest

SOCIAL PROGRAM
- Eucharistic Celebration
- Opening Ceremonies
- Fellowship Night
- Closing and Awarding Ceremonies
- Annual Dinner and Induction Ceremonies

SPORTS
- Badminton Tournament
- Golf Tournament

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Cheers, jeers for state of emergency

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo's declaration of a state of emergency has elicited various reactions from the people of Mindanao.

Although some sectors aired their support to the declaration, many felt it was not necessary.

The Southern Command, the largest military installation in the country, has placed its troops under a red alert status and monitored troop movements amid reports of recruitment by coup plotters.

Defying the declaration, militants have aired their disappointment by staging protests.

In Cotabato City, hundreds of Muslim demonstrators flocked to the city plaza and denounced the declaration.

In Cagayan de Oro City, policemen dispersed some 3,000 people attending an anti-Arroyo rally in Divisoria.

But in Davao City, hundreds of protesters were unmolested even as they called on Ms Arroyo to step down.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte vowed to uphold the people's right to assembly as long as protest actions remained peaceful.

Excerpts from some of the reactions:

☹ "We condemn the declaration, which would further suppress the people's cry for a change in our government." **–Zainab Ampatuan,** *Suara Bangsamoro national deputy secretary-general*

☹ "We are ready to be arrested."**–Randy Ponteras,** *Laban ng Masa*

☺ "Mindanaoans are saddened over these series of plots to dethrone the government. We as a people must stand up and protect the rule of law and the Constitution."**–Romeo Serra,** *vice president, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mindanao chapter*

☺ "She has made the right decision, but the rights of the people should be protected and respected."**–Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad**

☺ Supports the President but will allow protesters as long as they remain nonviolent. **–Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Ocampos**

☺ "The Camiguinons give their unconditional support for President Macapagal-Arroyo in declaring a state of emergency." **–Camiguin Gov. Pedro Romualdo**

☺ The declaration "would certainly put our country many steps backward in the eyes of the world, leaving our economy more handicapped... However, such action is justified under the Constitution to maintain civilized and a law-abiding society. As a Filipino, I am saddened that these things are happening. When are we going to learn?" **–Cagayan de Oro Vice Mayor Michelle Tagarda**

☺ "It is the prerogative of the President to see to it that the government is on top of any situation," **–Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan**

☺ The President did the right thing. **–Hatimil Hassan,** *speaker, ARMM Regional Legislative Assembly*

☺ I find no problem in the declaration as long as the President "[does] not harass the media and suppress press freedom. **–Lorie Ann Conde,** *account executive of the Courier Weekly, Butuan*

☺ "It is a legitimate move of a legal government to protect itself from those who would like to grab power. If nothing is done by this government and a coalition government is formed, who will compose it? For how long will it stay? I will settle with the present one rather than have a coalition without assurance of success." **–Prof. Geoffrey Salgado,** *historian and dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, Mindanao State University, Iligan City*

☺ "She did the right thing. Those opposed to her have abused their rights." **–Debbie Lynn Mangubat,** *Cotabato City*

☺ "The declaration has convinced me that there is indeed a serious threat to the Arroyo administration." **–South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes**

☹ "Our place has been peaceful and the unrest is happening only in Manila. So based on our present situation here, PGMA has no basis in declaring a state of national emergency. Manila is not the Philippines." **General Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr.**

☹ "It is nerve-wrecking in the sense that little by little, the rights of individuals would be curtailed. It is totally baseless." **–Rolando Deticio,** *Board member , Bukidnon*

☹ "The declaration seems to respond to the gains of growing dissent and restlessness of the people... This government can't stand but suppress democratic rights of the people whose intentions are valid, healthy and moral. The declaration must be denounced." **–Bishop Felixberto Calang,** *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*

☹ "Her move is unnecessary. For as long as there is no physical violence committed by the people, any move to curtail their freedom to celebrate and to articulate their sentiments is tantamount to a repressive rule." **–Andoni Andresan,** *businessman, Tandag, Surigao del Sur*

☹ "The declaration proved that the Arroyo government is in a state of panic." **–Franklin Guillano,** *physician, Davao City*

☹ "With the state of emergency in, I'm afraid martial law is not far away from being declared. [The President] is bent on holding on to power at all costs. Proof was her recent statement before a group of journalists that she alone is fit to lead the country. Let's pray that there will be no bloodshed and abuses by authorities." **–Ret. Philippine Constabulary Maj. Mohammad Adil,** *Cotabato City*

☹ "While it is part of her broad powers as the commander in chief, the conditions on the ground do not warrant such an exercise." **–James Reserva,** *law professor, Urios College, Butuan City*

☹ "Part *lang yang ng drama sa teleserye ng bayan natin. Wala ding mangyayari diyan.*" **–Riche Nobles,** *housewife, Butuan City*

☺ "I was shocked and hurt when television networks reported that I was relieved because of my involvement in the coup. That's not true. I still don't know why my name came out. They could have based it on my previous background... I remain committed in the chain of command. I am in Manila right now because I'm on vacation leave since Feb. 20. The report I went on hiding is not true." **–Col. Ariel Querubin,** *Marine commander*

☺ Those wanting to topple the government has not gained support from Mindanao yet. Even Magdalo soldiers who had been released from detention and now form part of the Southcom remain in camp and are all accounted for. "So far these soldiers don't show or manifest any inclination of supporting their previous erring superiors, they are performing their job well here." **–Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon,** *Southern Command chief, Zamboanga City*

☺ "We are securing all vital installations under our areas of responsibility." **–Lt. Col. Reolucio Samaco,** *deputy commander of the Air Force's 503rd Tactical Wing Command.*

☺ "Faced with the current situation now, it is but natural for the government to resort to measures that would protect the people and the state." **–Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino,** *Southcom deputy chief*

☺ "My troops remain loyal to the Constitution and the duly-constituted authority. We continue to follow the AFP chain of command and the incident in Manila was just an isolated one." **–Maj. Gen. Agustin Demaala,** *commander, Army 6th Infantry Division, Cotabato City.*

☺ "I am confident that there is no officer, military personnel involved in any destabilization plots against the President. Everybody is united." **–Col. Eduardo del Rosario,** *Task Force Davao chief.*

☺ "We will continue to follow the chain of command as far as the police in the region are concerned. We have no movements. All junior police officers are intact in support to President Arroyo." **–Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta,** *ARMM police director*

Reports from Julie S. Alipala, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Jeoffrey Maitem, Ryan Rosauro, Joselle Badilla, Nash B. Maulana, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Grace Albasin, Franklin Caliguid, Christine Ortega, Jeffrey Tupas, Dennis Jay C. Santos, Judy Quiros

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The organizers are working with the International Badminton Federation to find a suitable date within the international calendar. Nevertheless, all international participants are eager to come to the Philippines on this later date, when the situation has normalized.

To all who have purchased tickets to the event, please hold on to your tickets as these will still be honored on the new event dates. You may also call Ticketworld (8919999) for a refund, if necessary.

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See you all soon!

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IMG

SO THICK was the mud at the landslide site in Guinsaugon that a US Marine used a shovel to pull another Marine out of the muck. The US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit was diverted from the Balikatan exercises in Jolo to help in the search and rescue operations. AP

Rescuers give up on Leyte landslide survivors

From page A1

told the INQUIRER.

The governor said there were not enough words to express her gratitude to the hundreds of local and international volunteers who had helped in the operations.

She said she flew over the site yesterday, "and for the first time I was really overwhelmed by the magnitude of the landslide."

"It was a moving sight, and it made me [appreciate all the more] the bigness of the hearts of our companions and friends from the international community who came from all over the world to help the people of St. Bernard," she said.

Lerias said an Indonesian team would stay on for one month as a medical mission, while US forces—some 500 American Marines dispatched from the RP-US Balikatan military exercises—were still helping with the relocation of around 400 who escaped the landslide and many others who were evacuated from nearby villages.

About 3,314 evacuees, including 648 from Guinsaugon, are housed in five evacuation centers in the town proper.

Dr. Puji Pujiono, regional head of United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (Undac), said the response of the volunteers demonstrated how nations were prepared to work together to respond to a disaster.

He said Undac believed that at this point, attention should be paid more to the survivors and evacuees.

"Retrieval can go on later," he said.

'Sacred sanctuary'

Lerias said the disaster area would eventually be turned into "a sacred sanctuary, where we can remember those who died."

St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim said they were still looking for relocation sites for the 400 survivors. She said one of the identified sites was in Barangay Tambis Uno, the village next to Guinsaugon.

"But the site is small—only about 1.5 hectares. We need at least two or three hectares to accommodate all of them in one area," Lim said.

Guinsaugon, the fourth largest village of St. Bernard, has a land area of about six hectares, most of which was planted to rice.

Before the landslide, its population stood at around 1,800.

The governor and the experts may have lost hope in finding survivors, but not Samuel Bacor, 34.

"They are my daughters," Bacor said of Ella Joy, 9, and Shean Mae, 4. "I believe that they are still alive."

The body of his wife, Thelma, 33, has been found and buried.

Bacor, a seaman, was on board his ship based in Argentina when he learned of the Feb. 17 mudslide. He returned to Guinsaugon on Feb. 22.

The distraught Bacor said he did not know what he would do now that he had lost his family and home.

Different

Benjamin Hong (not Hung as earlier reported), coordinator of the 33-member Taiwanese rescue team, said Guinsaugon was different from other disaster sites where survivors were still found even after 10 days.

"A mudslide is different from an earthquake," Hong told the INQUIRER about an hour before he and his team left Guinsaugon at 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

He added: "Under a structure [toppled by an earthquake], there's air. There are chances of survival even five or six days later. In a mudslide, the area is covered completely [and] the chances of survival are much, much more slim.

"We are very saddened. I'm sorry about the tragedy. Everybody tried very hard to complete the job."

Lerias said the remaining Filipino volunteers and soldiers belonging to the 8th Infantry Division would no longer actively search for the Guinsaugon Elementary School, where over 200 pupils and teachers are believed buried.

On Friday, rescuers using satellite photos thought they had found the school site when a photo showed a slanted roof under several feet of mud.

It turned out to be a house, the governor said.

'Debris avalanche'

Mahar Lagmay, a geologist from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said their studies had shown that it would be difficult to find any more bodies and structures in Guinsaugon.

He said almost all the structures in the village had been moved by more than 500 meters from their original sites by the mudslide.

"What hit Guisaugon is what we call a 'debris avalanche.' Three million cubic meters of earth pushed the houses..." Lagmay said.

"With these findings and in consultations with other experts, we came up with the conclusion that it's time to end the rescue effort," he said.

Johnny Ong, who is part of the combined team of geologists from the University of the Philippines and Ateneo de Manila University, said they had pinpointed six sites where the retrieval operation could still continue.

Many of the villagers were believed to have been dragged to these sites by the mudslide, he said.

Lerias said it was at the same sites that they had hoped to find survivors. But she said they had to suspend search and rescue operations several times because of heavy rains.

11-day drive in Oman

"Nature was working against us, and it has not been easy," she said.

The disaster in Guinsaugon has spurred Filipino workers in Oman to launch an 11-day humanitarian drive (from Feb. 20 to Mar. 1) for the survivors and other victims.

The aid effort, called "Help Leyte Fund Drive for Landslide Victims," was launched by some 40 community leaders under the Filipino Social Club based in Muscat, the Omani capital.

The club, chaired by Melvin Villaflor, is the sole Filipino organization recognized by the Omani government. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

1081 or 1017? AFP chief fumbles not once but twice

From page A1

forcer of her controversial emergency proclamation cannot quite get a handle on what animal he is riding.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga yesterday made a slip of the tongue not once but twice, citing "Proclamation 1081" when he meant "Proclamation 1017."

Proclamation 1081 was the infamous document with which the dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in the country on Sept. 21, 1972, that would last for 14 years.

On Friday, just as the nation was celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power revolution that ousted the Marcos dictatorship, Ms Arroyo declared a state of emergency under Proclamation 1017.

She said that because of a "tactical alliance" between the extreme Right and Left in a conspiracy to bring down the duly constituted government, she was calling on the Armed Forces to maintain law and order and prevent or suppress all forms of lawless violence and rebellion throughout the country, as well as enforce obedience to all her decrees and orders.

No difference

If some of Ms Arroyo's critics are to be believed, there is no difference between 1081 and 1017, as they warned of a regime of warrantless arrests and detention without charges.

The Free Legal Assistance Group, which defended victims of human rights abuses during martial law for free, did not seem to see any difference between Ms Arroyo's 1017 and Marcos's 1081.

Some legal experts have pointed out, however, that the President did not include in her state of emergency declaration the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus—the privilege which protects citizens from illegal detention and searches—or the placing of the country or any part of it under martial law.

But if ordinary citizens could mistake 1017 for Marcos's martial law proclamation, it is not surprising as Senga himself appeared to be just as confused.

"This morning, I issued a guidance to all commanders down the line so they would know the guidance in the implementation of Proclamation 1081, as well as general orders we received from our commander in chief," Senga declared in a dzMM radio interview anchored by Vice President Noli de Castro no less.

De Castro may not have noticed the slip as he did not correct Senga.

Getting it right

Eventually Senga did get the proclamation number right.

"The primary agency that will move is the Philippine National Police and we are ready to assist them if they ask for our assistance based on Proclamation 1017," he said.

In yet another radio interview later yesterday, Senga again slipped up.

Asked about the implementing guidelines he issued during a command conference earlier that day, Senga referred to "Proclamation 1081" as he enumerated the guidelines.

He did not notice the mistake, but as the interview went on, he easily made the shift to "Proclamation 1017."

Senga had just graduated from the Philippine Military Academy when Marcos declared martial law in 1972.

Batch of '72

Some of his batchmates in the Masigasig Class of 1972 are in key positions in government, among them Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, retired Gen. Efren Abu, Senga's predecessor as AFP chief of staff, retired Vice Adm. Ernesto de Leon, the former Navy chief, and retired Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, former chief of the Southern Command.

PNP chief warns media

From page A1

the economy and sabotaging the people's confidence in government, and their faith in the future of this country," he said, reading from a portion of the order.

Takeover of Tribune

Lomibao said he would recommend that the PNP take over the operations of The Daily Tribune, a broadsheet critical of the Arroyo administration.

That means the government will review the reports to be published by the paper, but it will not be closed down, he said.

Lomibao said the paper had been engaged in "a concerted effort and systematic conspiracy with known elements out to bring down the duly constituted government since May 2004."

"[This] renders it a clear and present danger to the country and its people," he said.

But Ninez Cacho-Olivares, the paper's publisher and editor in chief, said she would continue to publish.

"We will publish as we wish. We are still going to write what we want. If they insist on prior restraint, let them close it. But the closure of the Tribune must come from the government," Olivares told the INQUIRER. "We will continue until they shut us down."

Olivares said it would be business as usual at the Tribune.

"I have been advised to make myself invisible, but what for? I am not doing anything wrong," she said.

Olivares reported for work at around 3 p.m. yesterday despite rumors that she would be arrested.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag, Tribune columnists Ike Seneres and Herman Tiu Laurel and a number of reporters gathered at her office.

At about 4 p.m., Olivarez learned that she would not be arrested.

Saguisag said he would go to the Supreme Court tomorrow "to question the constitutionality of the act emanating from the proclamation" of a national emergency, which was the basis for the order to raid the Tribune.

Midnight raid

Officers of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group raided the Tribune's editorial office past midnight yesterday.

Janitor Ronald Semillano said the policemen took page proofs of the paper's Feb. 25 issue and photographs and copies of the reports faxed and e-mailed by its reporters before leaving the office on the 9th Floor of the GLC Building on T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila.

"One or two of them had a video camera," said Semillano who, along with a security guard, was the only one left in the newspaper office.

He said he had earlier learned that the policemen had gone to the paper's printing office in Port Area at around 11 p.m.

"They got nothing there because the newspapers were already out for distribution," he said.

Some cops remained inside the editorial office as well as outside the building.

"They were quite apologetic, saying they were merely following orders from their higher-ups," Semillano said.

Insp. Jonathan Pablito of the Police Community Relations Group in Camp Crame said they were given orders to secure the facility, "which is considered a potential source of destabilization materials."

Freedom of the press

Repeatedly challenged during the press conference, Lomibao was asked if the government's action did not constitute a curtailment of the freedom of the press and was, therefore, unconstitutional.

At one point, he said the PNP was "find[ing] shelter in General Order No. 5."

He said other media organizations would face the same fate as the Tribune if they did not hew to government standards.

"Until yesterday, when a civilian-backed military uprising was crushed by authorities, the Daily Tribune was deeply engaged in a continuing propagation of disinformation and publication of seditious and scurrilous remarks or articles," Lomibao said, adding:

"We will recommend that the government direct the operations of the Daily Tribune, to ensure that the newspaper will not be used to propagate disinformation, antigovernment messages and information that incite to sedition."

Lomibao also said the PNP would move against persons, groups or business establishments that, according to its evaluation, would "contribute to the exacerbation of the national emergency."

"With this clear mandate from General Order No. 5, we will carry out appropriate actions and security measures to prevent an escalation of the situation," he said.

The move on the Tribune was meant to show a "strong presence, to tell media outlets not to connive or do anything that would help the rebels in bringing down this government," said Michael Defensor, the President's chief of staff.

"This is an abnormal situation. This is not a joke or an invention; there is a possibility of an armed takeover of the government. A government has the right to protect itself," Defensor told reporters.

Asked if the government believed that the Tribune could be part of the alleged conspiracy, he said: "Could be, could be. We can't say because they might do something."

But Defensor refused to call the Tribune case a government takeover.

"We did not meddle with their headlines and content, so it's clearly not a takeover. They're continuing to print," he said. "I hope we'll never reach that point [of the government dictating the editorial content of a newspaper]."

He said the only media outlet that had been closely monitored by the authorities was the Tribune, and denied reports that certain tabloids and broadcast stations had also been put under surveillance.

Defensor said policemen were at the Tribune to check and not interfere with its operations.

He said the Tribune was targeted because its past headlines showed that it had a tendency toward leftist and rightist propaganda to bring down the government.

"It's OK if they are pro-[Joseph] Estrada, but they cannot be antigovernment or prorebel at this point," he said.

Back-channeling

Defensor said the government had conducted "back-channeling efforts with owners and managers of different media outlets to explain the situation."

He dismissed criticism that the Tribune case involved censorship or media harassment.

"You should understand we are in an abnormal situation. We don't want to stifle press freedom, and we will not do that. But in this situation we have to help one another," he said.

On the other hand, Eduardo Nachura, the President's chief legal counsel, said he did not anticipate the government takeover of Tribune when he helped draft Proclamation 1017.

But Nachura said he did not believe that it was "really indicative of any blanket action to be taken against all media outfits."

Asked if Ms Arroyo should speak out to clear the matter, Nachura said: "I suppose she should."

Pacifico Agabin, convenor of the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties and a former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law, said the raid on the Tribune was "unconstitutional."

"It can't be justified under a state of emergency. Even martial law does not suspend the Bill of Rights. Freedom of expression can't be curtailed unless there's a clear and present danger of rebellion or invasion. So far, there's none," Agabin said in an interview.

Agabin, the Senate legal counsel in its case questioning the constitutionality of Executive Order No. 464, pointed out that newspaper companies were not public utilities that the government could take over in a national emergency.

"You can't equate newspapers with public utilities. Newspapers enjoy freedom of the press. Public utilities and other industries are operating under a license that can be revoked by the government. Newspapers don't need a license," he said. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio*

TRIBUNE editor in chief Ninez Cacho-Olivarez a day after police raided the Tribune office on Friday night, confiscated editorial materials and a bundle of the latest edition of the newspaper headlining President Arroyo's declaration of emergency rule. RYAN LIM

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Edsa Shrine remains a symbol of hope

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR 26-YEAR-OLD MARIANO Satu, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Shrine on Edsa is not only a proud symbol of the 1986 People Power Revolution, or a perfect site for anti-government protests, it is also a home where he and other ordinary people have found hope.

Satu is one of the caretakers of the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong City, built in honor of the massive uprising that ousted the Marcos dictatorship 20 years ago, on a tract of land donated by the Ortigas and Gokongwei families to the church.

Satu used to be a street kid, wandering about in Manila City just wearing his traditional g-string, being a native of Kalinga Apayao.

Rude awakening

He was just nine years old when, one day, he woke inside their house and found that his mother had left him and his elder sister, bringing only their youngest sibling with her.

His father already dead by then, Satu and his sister were clueless why their mother suddenly left them. "Maybe she could no longer afford to raise us," he told the INQUIRER. But Satu did not give up easily.

The nine-year-old boy worked in the rice fields and with the money he earned, he got on a bus headed for Baguio City, determined to find his mother, even if he did not know exactly where.

Satu said he was shocked when the bus driver told him he was already in Cubao, Quezon City.

He walked aimlessly, still wearing his g-string, until he reached what he now knows as the Luneta Park in Manila City.

For six months he wandered about the city, eating only fried bananas using the meager amount he had saved, scaring other street children because of the way he was dressed and the way he spoke.

But one day, while he was taking a bath in a public fountain, a security guard accosted him.

The guard brought him to the social welfare and development office in Manila City, which later turned him over to an orphanage, where he learned how to speak Filipino and started to wear "normal clothes."

He was 16 when he decided to leave the orphanage. The security guard who had found him offered to adopt him. But surprised to learn that the good samaritan had nine children, Satu decided to go his own way.

"I would just be another mouth to feed. I did not want to be an additional burden on his family," he recalled.

He went back to the streets. But one day, Bishop Soc Villegas, then the rector of the Edsa Shrine, found him in San Juan.

Just like what he had done to countless street children, Villegas brought Satu to the shrine, gave him food and taught him catechism.

Satu said he tried searching for his mother and siblings again but failed.

"I have learned to live alone. The shrine became my home. It was as if (Bishop Villegas) adopted me," he said.

Satu became one of the beneficiaries when Villegas provided free houses three years ago for at least 42 families, many of whom were former street children who wandered around the shrine.

When Villegas left the parish to become the Bishop of the Diocese of Bataan in 2004, he left behind Satu, who later became a regular employee of the shrine.

Paying it forward

He may have forgotten how his siblings looked like, but Satu still remembers everyone who has helped him: if he has extra money, he buys vitamins for the street children still in the orphanage where he came from, he buys groceries and sacks of rice for the family of the security guard who rescued him, and he visits Villegas in Bataan almost every week.

"I am happy with my life now. I would work for the shrine as long as I can," Satu said.

His happiness is shared by 27-year-old Crisanto Gestiada, one of the three sacristans at the shrine. He expects to earn his college degree next year—thanks to a former classmate who brought him to the shrine in 1999.

Gestiada said his eyes grew wide the first time he entered the shrine.

"The people here were all very decent—the way they talked, the way they dressed. I told myself I wanted to be like them," Gestiada said.

But coming from a poor family, he only managed to finish high school. His parents sent him to the La Salle Greenhills in Mandaluyong City to take up a free vocational course, although he really wanted to earn a degree.

Andy, a classmate, encouraged him to also work at the shrine. Gestiada agreed, wanting a stable job, not knowing that his work would bring him closer to his dream of going to college.

"I thought (Bishop Villegas) would just give me free time to attend classes. I was surprised when he offered to shoulder my schooling," Gestiada said.

He enrolled in Business Management at the Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong City in 2001. He expects to graduate next year.

He said his work as a sacristan has also strengthened his faith. "I became closer to God. I learned to love my family more as well as to value my job," Gestiada said.

He said that most of the employees at the shrine were from poor families. Many of them, like Satu, were former street children who used to roam around the shrine.

Away from politics

In celebrating the 20th anniversary of the 1986 People Power Revolution, the shrine apparently tried to steer away from politics and instead organized activities that sought to redefine "people power."

A week was devoted to free seminars on possible livelihood opportunities like soap making and candle making. Parishioners are also given the power to help, even in simple ways, old and retired priests.

In front of the entrance is a game called "fishermen's net," where parishioners can pick a fish made of paper, written on each are ways to help the priests, like bringing mats or towels. Many people are responding favorably, shrine employees said.

For Satu, Gestiada (both declined to be photographed for this story) and the countless people whom the shrine has given home and hope, real people power is not about noisy but ephemeral political changes.

It is about people quietly bringing extraordinary changes in the lives of ordinary people.

THE EDSA Shrine has transformed not only the lives of millions of Filipinos, but the poor and needy who wander about its premises. JOAN BONDOC

Parañaque school still closed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL IN Parañaque City will remain closed until further notice, health officials announced yesterday.

School officials earlier declared a week-long holiday when 11 students were hospitalized for symptoms of mercury exposure following a class experiment on Feb. 16.

Although only one of the 11 students is still confined at the Philippine General Hospital for further observation, two more students were also reported on Friday to be suffering from the same symptoms.

Dr. Eric Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, however, said the two students are "not seriously ill."

Officials of the Department of Health and City Health Office (CHO), meanwhile, asked school administrators, in a meeting on Friday night, to map out a contingency plan should efforts to decontaminate the school drag on.

The school is negotiating with Metrowide Environment Consulting Inc., a private company, to conduct the mercury spillage cleanup, which would cost about P1 million, he said.

The cleanup is set to start on Tuesday and, hopefully, would be completed by Friday.

The DOH and CHO are keeping watch over 106 people from St. Andrew's—89 students and 17 teachers and staffers—who are suspected to have been exposed to the chemical.

Initial reports said a teacher was discussing mercury with 80 students in a science class when some of the chemical, which was in an open beaker, was spilled.

The contamination, however, further spread when one of the staff cleaned the two classrooms, where the chemical was spilled, using a floor polisher.

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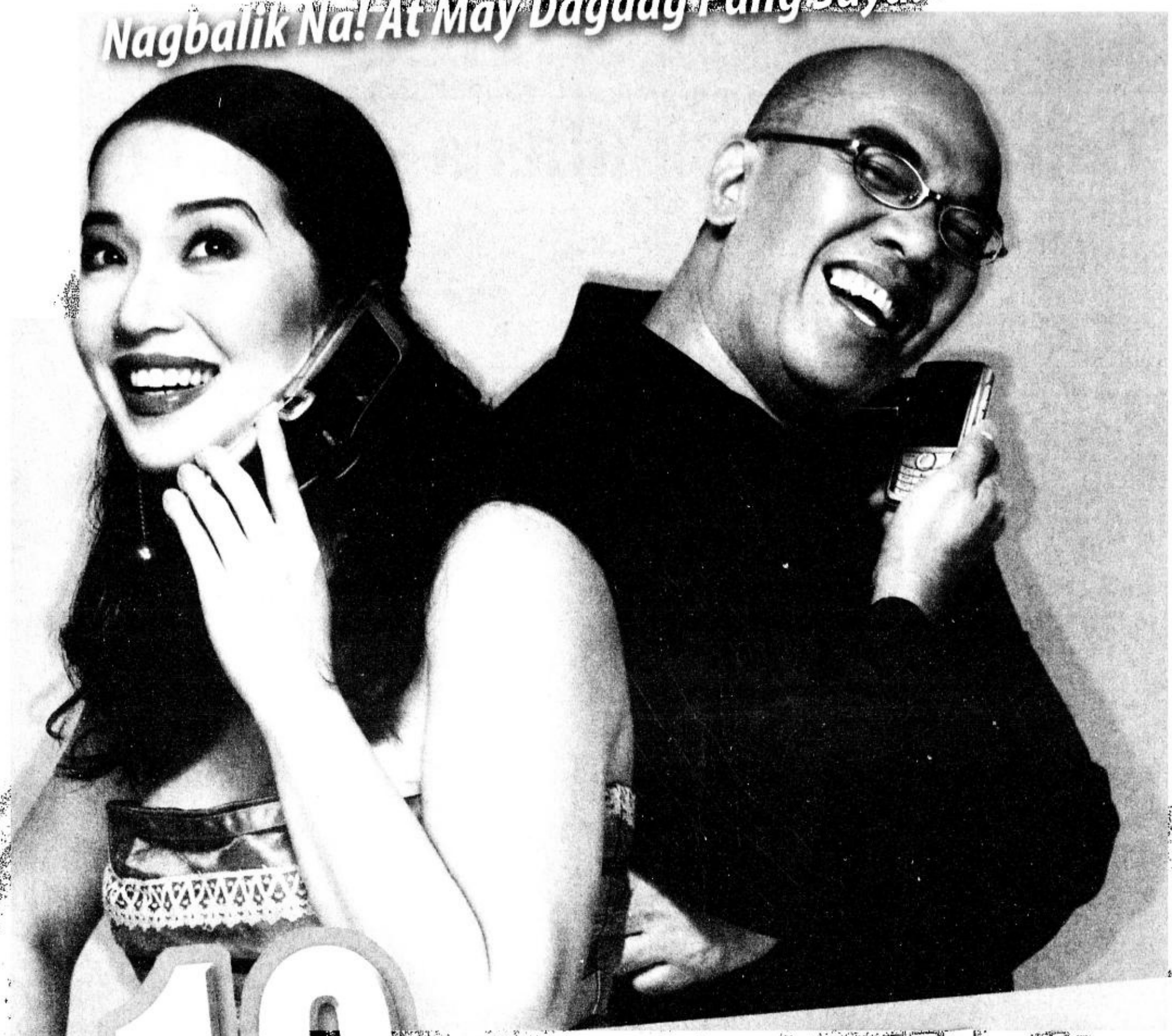

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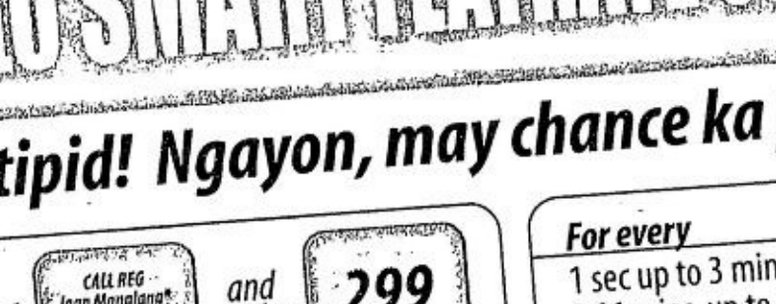

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EDSA I 20

THE PEOPLE

Insurance firm employees lead Makati march to see Cory

By Edgar B. Villaseñor

IN THE MORNING OF FEB. 26, 1986, A GROUP OF Universal Reinsurance Corp. employees who had come to work early huddled around a newspaper with the headline "Marcos Flees" and relished the moment.

For in the days prior to that, we had kept vigil and stayed with the sea of humanity that had converged on Edsa and in the vicinity of Channel 4, be it during office hours or after office hours through the early mornings. We also engaged companies owned by Danding Cojuangco with offices in the same building in a not-so-friendly demonstration of our opposing political persuasions. As a result, anti- and pro-Marcos slogans were displayed on our respective windows and updated daily to the delight of passers-by. Photos of the displays were published in Mr. & Ms. Magazine.

During our seemingly endless banter that glorious morning, we got hold of a yellow-colored plastic material and cut out big bold letters spelling the words FREE AGAIN.

Then, about 50 or so of us gathered at the back lobby of the UniversalRe building and waited for more employees to arrive. In no time, we found ourselves marching on Paseo de Roxas toward Pasay Road. We were in the mood to celebrate and invited employees of other companies and simple pedestrians to come along.

By the time the lead group holding up the Free Again banner reached the corner of Makati and Ayala Avenues, more than a kilometer-long column of people was marching behind it. Some UniversalRe employees were eventually eased out of the front line and were replaced as banner holders.

DAY AFTER the glory day on Edsa, a group of Edsa veterans working for the Universal Reinsurance Corp. made this giant banner, and marching around Makati like the Pied Piper, a km-long column of people followed them as everyone was still high on Edsa I. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At this point, crowds from various political groups like Atom, Bayan, etc. joined the march, waving their own flags and posters and nearly eclipsing the Free Again banner. With tact and diplomacy, UniversalRe's top honchos asked these groups' flag bearers to move back.

On Ayala Avenue, those of us in front could no longer see where the tailend of the procession was; we knew only that there were a lot of people. There were also lots of media people taking pictures and we had no inkling then that photos of our banner would land prominently in newspapers and foreign magazines.

By this time, the UniversalRe employees who initiated this Free Again march were faced with a problem. How do we end this? The marchers had just made a U-turn on Ayala and were moving toward Edsa.

Suddenly, one of us came up with a brilliant idea. Why don't we lead these people to the campaign headquarters of Cory Aquino and Doy Laurel on Dela Rosa street, also in Makati, and hope for the best? We stopped in front of the Cojuangco building and started chanting, "Cory, Cory, Cory."

Then a window on one of the floors of the building opened. A widely smiling and beaming Cory appeared and waved in appreciation at the marchers briefly. As the window closed, the crowd broke up and the UniversalRe employees all went back to the office, unmindful of the fact that in the excitement and frenzy of the celebration, not one of us had taken breakfast and lunch.

Up to this time, we never seem to tire of recounting this unique experience in company reunions or family gatherings, each one of us telling whoever cares to listen that we were there when it all happened, and that we were then truly Free Again.

Sleepless in Jaro

By Ruby A. Dumalaog

I THOUGHT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD AT BARANGAY Liberted in Jaro, Iloilo, was fast asleep when news broke out on Bombo Radio announcing that President Ferdinand Marcos had left the Palace.

Deafening screams, clapping and yelling erupted all around, not only in our house but in the entire neighborhood. Lights were turned on.

The Cathedral of Jaro was suddenly illuminated and the bells rang. Soon thousands of people thronged the streets, all heading toward the Cathedral, cheering and clapping. It seemed like one big fiesta.

I ran toward the Cathedral. I realized that what was happening at Edsa was also happening in Jaro.

Soldiers patrolling the city shook hands with people on the streets. People who didn't know each other were embracing each other and crying.

That night, I realized that although the islands in the Philippines are far apart, although we are far away from Edsa, although we were not there to face the tanks, in our hearts we are one, we have one dream and we can be together.

(The writer was then a 16-year-old high school student. She's a teacher now)

My dad, a hero

By Butch Garcia

IN HIS 40S THEN, HE WAS NOT THE IDEAL FAther. So in the evening of Feb. 25, when he asked me and my brother Perry to go to Mendiola, it came as a pleasant surprise to my mom.

"Wala na si Marcos! Umalis na si Marcos! Malaya na tayo!" people shouted along the route from San Juan to Mendiola.

We encountered very heavy traffic and hot heads at a street corner on Ramon Magsaysay Avenue. We were stuck there for some 15 minutes.

My father, never the one to volunteer his services much less appease a rowdy crowd, went out of our vehicle.

There, amid the shouts of all the people rushing to Mendiola, he took control of the traffic mess until the corner was cleared. I could still see him there, his frail frame in *sando* under a gray wool jacket, zipped half-way up.

Then he boarded our Fiera and we proceeded.

We were supposed to storm Malacañang. Because of the traffic delay, we reached only the gate near Nagtahan Bridge. There, we joined the crowd in singing "Bayan Ko."

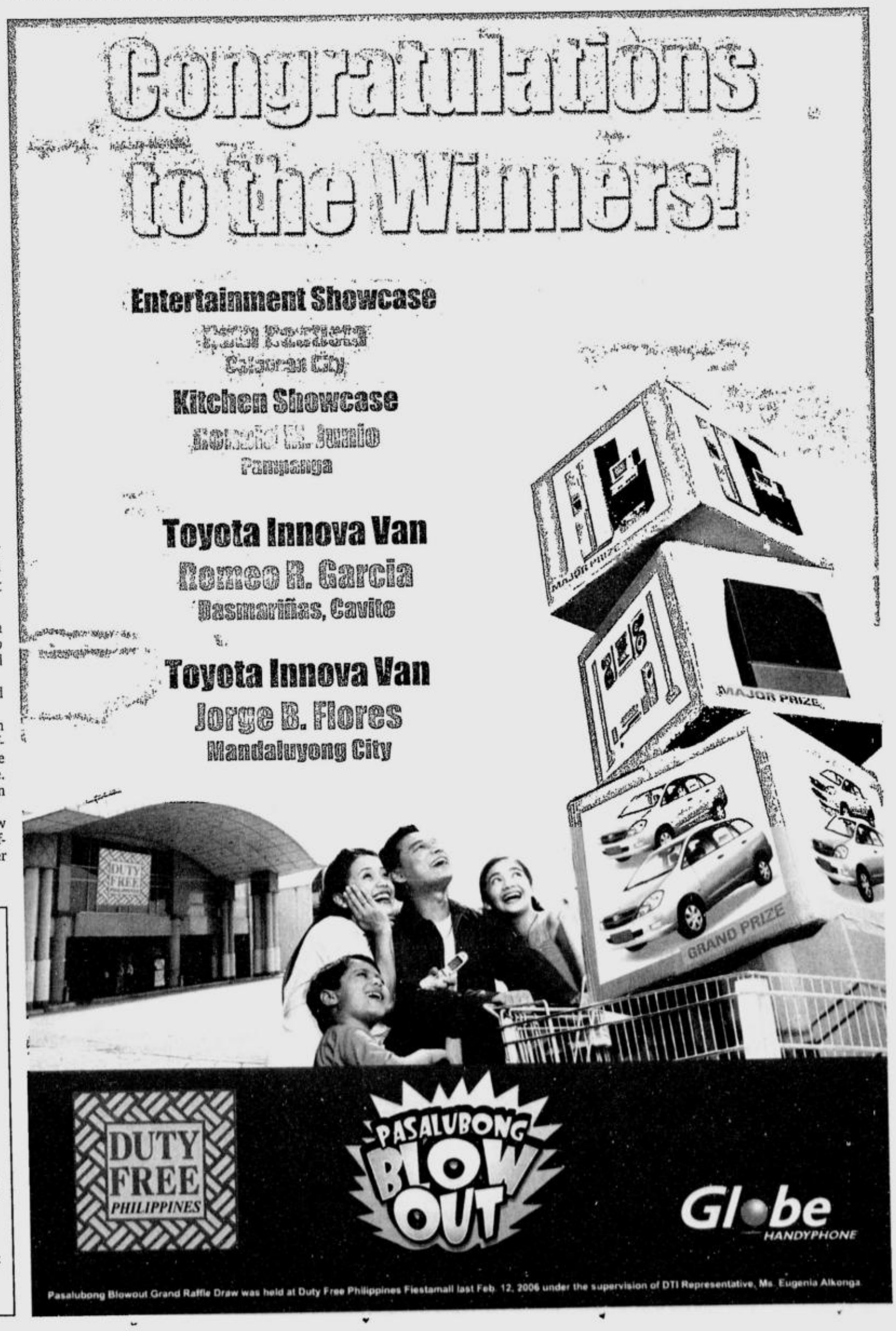
For a fleeting moment, I saw my father transformed into a selfless Edsa hero, a man I never thought he could be.

My father died in 1992.

Martial law baby comes of age

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Never too young to start to learn about simple courage, Ira Nastassja Olan was right there for the protest rally.



EDSA I 20

THE PEOPLE

Magical moment

By Jenny Millan

I'M MARRIED WITH THREE LOVELY DAUGHTERS. I'M an architect. I passed the board exams four years after People Power. I migrated and worked in the US for a while but came back. I feel this is really my home.

As a student, I had marched in many protests but on that afternoon on Feb. 25, 1986, I thought the atmosphere was very surreal.

Police manning the barbed wire barricades on Mendiola bridge were armed to the teeth and were occasionally firing guns into the air. I thought they were really very determined to scare us away.

I cannot help but think that it only needs just one of these diehards to level his machinegun and fire and we were gone.

I belonged to the "defensive unit," or DU, that was out front just 10 meters away from the phalanx of police.

The crowd stretched all the way down to Morayta. News was being passed to the the front line that the situation at the Palace was changing rapidly.

Just before midnight, there was the sudden eruption of intense gunfire, shouting and people running away from the shooting.

I was thinking this was it, the last ditch effort of the dictatorship to hold on to his position. I would have run but since we were in a *kabit bisig* formation, I could not do this without dragging the rest of the DU with me.

But I recovered and realized that the police were still firing upwards. It was just that more people not involved with the ralliers—the *uziseros*, or kibitzers—were congregating on the sidewalk. They were the ones who screamed and ran when the gunfire started.

It dawned on me a dictator might for the first time in the history of the world be pressured to step down without bloodshed.

Finally, it happened.

It was one of the most magical things that has happened to me and to our country.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THIS IS WHERE Cardinal Sin once told Cory Aquino, even before Edsa I broke that she would become president. This is also a table for entertaining, for counseling estranged couples, etc.

Nora Aunor booed

By Francisco Xavier del Rosario Jr.

ON THE 23RD, RADIO VERITAS CALLED ON THE CITIzens to protect the station after it received reports that the military would close it down.

Since the station was on the same street where my aunt lived, we decided to proceed there. Not many people had gathered there, mostly nearby residents.

There was a stage built on the street to entertain people and to update them of the developments at Edsa. Jim Paredes and Lino Brocka, alternately, hosted the impromptu program.

That night, an artist came to join the gathering much to the dismay of some of the people. Boos and whistles welcomed her. It was Nora Aunor, a known supporter of the Marcoses. She explained that she had realized that it was time for a change. Some applauded her. Afterwards, we heard she was then proceeding to Edsa.

During the program, Lino announced that a group of Marines was on its way to the Station. He asked men to form a barricade fronting the stage. While we were standing, arms locked together, a loud explosion was heard. There was screaming and crying.

Lino tried to calm the crowd explaining that it was just a drill conducted by some military personnel who were already supporting the rebellion. Fortunately, no government troops arrived.

Later it was announced that the government had disabled the station's transmitter in Bulacan and that anytime soon, its broadcast would be terminated. It actually never stopped.

Tear-gassed at Libis

By Fe Paller Que

THERE IS SO MUCH JUBILATION. JUNE KEITHLEY'S voice cracks as she announces early in the morning that we have won. Brenda and I quicken our pace from Guadalupe bridge towards Camp Aguinaldo. You have to walk a long way. I think this is our third day at Edsa. Yet you do not feel tired. There is energy in the air.

The streets are blocked with cars and groups of people—families and friends who have set up camp everywhere. You feel a strong bond with the faceless crowd now dancing, shouting, smiling and even offering breakfast to just about everybody. There is a certain force, a sense of pride that binds us together.

But something is wrong. We see helicopters hovering over Ortigas. June Keithley retracts. It is a false alarm. Marcos troops are massing by the truckloads. Some trucks are now in Libis.

Brenda and I move quickly to go there. True enough, trucks of troops in their dark fatigue uniforms gloom this sunny, cheery, yellow-colored morning. I see many international and local correspondents on their toes for any major development.

Suddenly, a commotion. I hear guns cocked. By instinct, we turn back and run. I was just waiting for a bullet to pierce through me. Somebody hurled a tear gas. My eyes were on fire. I cannot see. I am crying now.

In my mind, my future passes through me. How can I be an actress if I go blind? A nameless lady grabs me. I ask for water. People are helping each other and offering water. I wash my face. I feel better although my eyes and face are stinging still.

I do not see Brenda. But I know just where to find her. Funny, mobile phones for the ordinary man is unheard of yet. But we keep track of each other, of minute to minute developments by radio, by word of mouth and because our minds were focused on the same things. Telepathically, we were collectively "online."

So we walk back to Edsa, a silent voice saying that is where we should go. There, a new wave of multitude from all walks gather, block the Marcos forces and ask the troops to back off and join us. Nobody is giving instructions or asking us what to do.

We just know.

THE CHURCH

Reflections on Sin

From page A1

Villa San Miguel is a house with many rooms. It has ready rooms for priests who need a place to rest. It has big rooms for big meetings as big as all the bishops of Asia and small rooms for small meetings like prewedding interviews. That Villa San Miguel has many rooms is to be expected. It is not a villa for nothing!

What makes Villa San Miguel most memorable to me are the many tables in the house. Villa San Miguel is a house of many tables! The tables give character and identity to the rooms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THE SAINTLY Mother Teresa also supped at the table of Sin.

The office desk

From this table, he took the telephone, called Radio Veritas and summoned the people to go to Edsa.

Cardinal Sin's office desk is an old style narra table with carvings on the corners. It has the usual drawers on the side of the person working on the table. The only drawer Cardinal Sin really used was the long drawer on the level of the stomach. Here he kept rosaries, stampitas, medals and little religious articles. These were given away generously to the guests and visitors. There is no peace without prayer. From that small drawer, he gave tokens to his guests and reminded them to pray. A nation at prayer is a nation at peace.

There is something peculiar about his office desk. It has a movable table extension in front so that his guests can have a place to lay their cups of coffee or cake plates while they talk to the Cardinal. Over a cup of coffee or a glass of juice with a slice of cake or a simple sandwich, Cardinal Sin entertained his guests, counseled estranged couples or mediated between politicians. That little table extension has served muncios and archbishops. Its unique design even became a conversation piece. How can you fight against someone who eats from the same cake? The easiest way to cool hot heads is through the stomach. This is a table extension for peace.

This was the table on which he read letters from popes and cardinals, from Kings and Presidents. Here on this table, he read countless manifestos of the urban poor and political prisoners. Here on this table, he wrote his pastoral letters, signed them and issued them. Here on this table, he read "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a Kempis, his favorite spiritual reading book. Here on this table, he read the newspaper and magazines and scribbled his Spanish poems.

In the morning of Jan. 20, 2001, the future President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called on Cardinal Sin at Villa San Miguel and told him that she was accommodating the request of the generals to give former President Estrada an honorable exit from office. The Cardinal's face grew red. He pounded his hand on his table and said, "Gloria, you are now the President! You are now the Commander-in-Chief. If you begin your presidency by doing what the generals want, you will have to do that for the rest of your term. Let the generals obey you and take order from you. Please take your oath. The people are waiting for you."

GMA: Will of God

At this moment, the cell phone rang and the caller informed her that the negotiations with Estrada had reached an impasse. Putting down the phone, she said. "Your Eminence, this is the will of God for me. I will take my oath at the Edsa Shrine by noon." The Cardinal bowed his head and his tears felled on his desk.

What a historic table this is! If tables can speak, I am sure every fiber and splinter of this table will proudly retell recent Philippine Church history.

The second table is one of a kind in the whole house. It is the only round table in the house that sits 16 persons. To bring the table into the room where it is now, we had to dismantle a part of the wooden wall to bring it through.

This table is in the bar room. It used to have a wine bar during the time of Cardinal Rufino Santos. It was originally a recreation room for a leisurely drink or just to laze around and watch the television. It has evolved through the years. The television is not there anymore. The lazy seats are not there anymore. The wine bar is not there anymore. It is still called Bar Room in spite of the changes.

The Bar Room has become a room for confidential meetings. The 16-seater round table is symbolic of the rules that operate in those meetings. There is no special place for the head. All are equal in this arrangement. The discussants look at one another; listen to another and decide together. This round table is symbolic of the Church as a community of disciples called by the Lord personally and yet answering the all of the Lord together. This table is symbolic of the Church as people of God.

Cory, you'll be president

On this table, Cardinal Sin met his Board of Consultors once a month in order to decide on matters affecting the Church. On this table, he met Gov. Chavit Singson and allowed the tense governor to lay before him all the evidence against the incumbent President (Estrada). On this table, in the presence of the Board of Consultors, he told Cory Aquino that she will be President of the Philippines long before Edsa broke out. On this table, Cardinal Sin prophetically told Cory Aquino to prepare her gown for her oath taking as President of the Philippines. On this table, he met then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the Erap Resign Campaign and advised her on moral principles for moral governance. On this round table, he made decisions that changed the course of our history.

Table of peace

The true table of peace is Jesus Himself. This is symbolized liturgically by the altar for the Eucharist. From the table of the Eucharist, we are fed and nourished. On the table of the Eucharist, we lay our gifts for the Lord. There is a second table for the spiritual nourishment of the people of God. It is called the table of Word. The Word of God refreshes us and gives us strength.

The desk table in the Archbishop's Office is a veritable table of peace. On it, feuding camps were reconciled, differences were resolved and commitments to peace, no matter what the cost, were vowed.

The huge round table speaks so eloquently of equality and justice, one of the many pillars of peace. It speaks of a Church less concerned with dignity and more preoccupied with humble service. From the table of "communio," we find the bread of peace. In the House of Sin, the house of many tables, there is peace.

THE MEDIA

For a shining moment . . .

From page A1

That was a long time ago—Andre Maurois writing of the triumph of Joan of Arc in his "History of France."

There are the seeds of human greatness in the stories of the two innocent women who, five centuries apart, rallied people through their own faith to rise against tyranny. It is story that can never be told too often and, no matter how it ends this time, is a lesson in the dynamics and wonder of democratic political leadership.

The miracles of Cory Aquino were made not by God but by millions of men and women who invested themselves in her. They made her what they hoped to be, and she made them for a shining moment invincible.

There may be trouble, too, for the inspiring President Aquino. There was for the Maid of Orleans when she was captured in 1430. But whatever happens next in 1986, the reluctant leader from Manila has already given more people than her own something to aspire to a demonstration of the greatness of simple values and simple courage.United Press Syndicate

GLORIA GARCHITORENA-GOLOY

Been there in '72 and '78, seen it in '83, but missed '86

WRITER GLORIA GARCHITORENA-GOLOY HAD BEEN in the midst of all those dramatic moments in the nation's history since her once renowned Manila Times newspaper was unceremoniously shut down upon the declaration of martial law in 1972.

She was in the rallies in 1978 when a cowed nation finally found its voice and began to speak out.

She was at Luneta in 1983 at the funeral of slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino whose murder galvanized the silent majority into action.

But she rues she missed out on the one shining moment in the life of the country—1986.

This is her lament:

It is a missed opportunity I have regretted, year after year, each time the historic event is recalled in celebratory media prose and visuals. I can never hope to be listed in the Edsa I heroes honor roll because I never made it to the privileged gathering that swelled in such spectacular numbers, the whole world sat up and took notice.

I wasn't there when the stretch of Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (that's Edsa, of course) began to fill up with a rapidly growing multitude in the area between Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo and, as the numbers multiplied, had to spill out to the side streets, forcing people who had come out to join the massed gathering, to abandon their vehicles and to trudge the rest of the way on foot.

Later, when aerial photographs were shown of the four-way spill-out, the recorded visuals resembled that of a huge cross of humanity dispersed in this remarkable display by an Unseen Force pulling off a capricious stroke of art.

I wasn't there to join the quiet crowd keeping pace with the solemn Mass rituals performed by priests in the makeshift altars, set up wherever space was made available.

I wasn't there when an agonized collected shout rose as a convoy of tanks hove into view and this was met by what is now called the first line of defense—a group of nuns stolidly holding a gallant stand, armed with nothing more menacing than their respective rosaries in hand.

I wasn't there when a great roar rippled through the crowd gathered in Crame's vast grounds as one helicopter at first circled tentatively then touched down to disgorge its pilot, Col. Antonio Sotelo, to signal what was to become the turning point of the three-day military impasse—the capitulation of the government forces to the rebel group.

Subsequently, the tanks, the heavily armed "enemy" battalions retreated, turned around amidst wild cheering and clapping from the smiling, teary-eyed multitude.

Gee, I missed that most dramatic point of the Edsa history-in-the-making.

For I was home, nursing a 170/90 hypertensive discomfort, having stayed up all night and early morning listening to the radio blow-by-blow account by June Keithley of the dramatic turn of events.

This was how I was able to keep track of what was happening, where it was happening, keenly aware that something historic was unfolding.

Looking back afterwards, I realized that the moment was lost to me forever. Because I wasn't there.

THE MEDIA

Where were you when it happened? Memories of an AP man

By Ruben G. Alabastro
PDI Day Desk Editor

WHEN DISASTER strikes, people would ask: Where were you when it happened?

On that Saturday afternoon in 1986 when Juan Ponce Enrile fled to Camp Aguinaldo, my kindly boss at The Associated Press was watching a movie somewhere in Manila.

The day had been awash with rumors. I was alone in the office when the phone rang. It was Eggy Apostol, the INQUIRER founding publisher. She wanted to talk to David Briscoe, the AP bureau chief, and she sounded breathless.

"Enrile is about to be arrested by Marcos. He has gone to Aguinaldo. Go there. He needs all of you to be there," she said.

I called David but the maid said he had gone out to see a movie. It was a world still without cell phones and I called again and again. A political upheaval was in the wind and the chief AP correspondent in the Philippines was enjoying a movie. I gritted my teeth.

Just then, our news editor, Mike Suarez, *(Story on this page.)* called from Cebu where he was covering Cory Aquino's civil disobedience campaign. He told me to drop everything and go to Aguinaldo.

I flew.

Other reporters had arrived at the Defense Department but no one seemed to know what was going on.

Chopper brings firearms

The whir of a helicopter sent us running to the windows. Soldiers were jumping out of the chopper, struggling with bulky canvas sacks.

"*Mga armas!*" someone said.

In my adult years I had known no president except Ferdinand Marcos. Since he declared martial law, his word was law. The toughest generals quaked in his presence.

Now, his own soldiers were preparing to fight him.

The day had changed for us all.

I called my wife. She was working as a secretary at the malacañang press office. I told her about Enrile, the sacks of guns. "Go home," I told her.

She said she still had work to do.

Please, Dada, I said, go home now. "*Iba na ito, ayaw mo naman talaga kay* Marcos, *di ba? Hindi na* legal *ang gobyernong ito,*" I pleaded.

She would not listen. She had been working at Malacañang for 15 years but her heart had been quietly for Cory.

She said she was staying on.

I called again, begging. She insisted she could not leave her officemates behind. "*Pano naman sila? ... Huwag mo akong alalahanin,*" she said.

Her voice was breaking. She was almost crying. She hung up again.

Once more I called, but she would no longer lift the phone. I knew she had made up her mind.

No Yes man

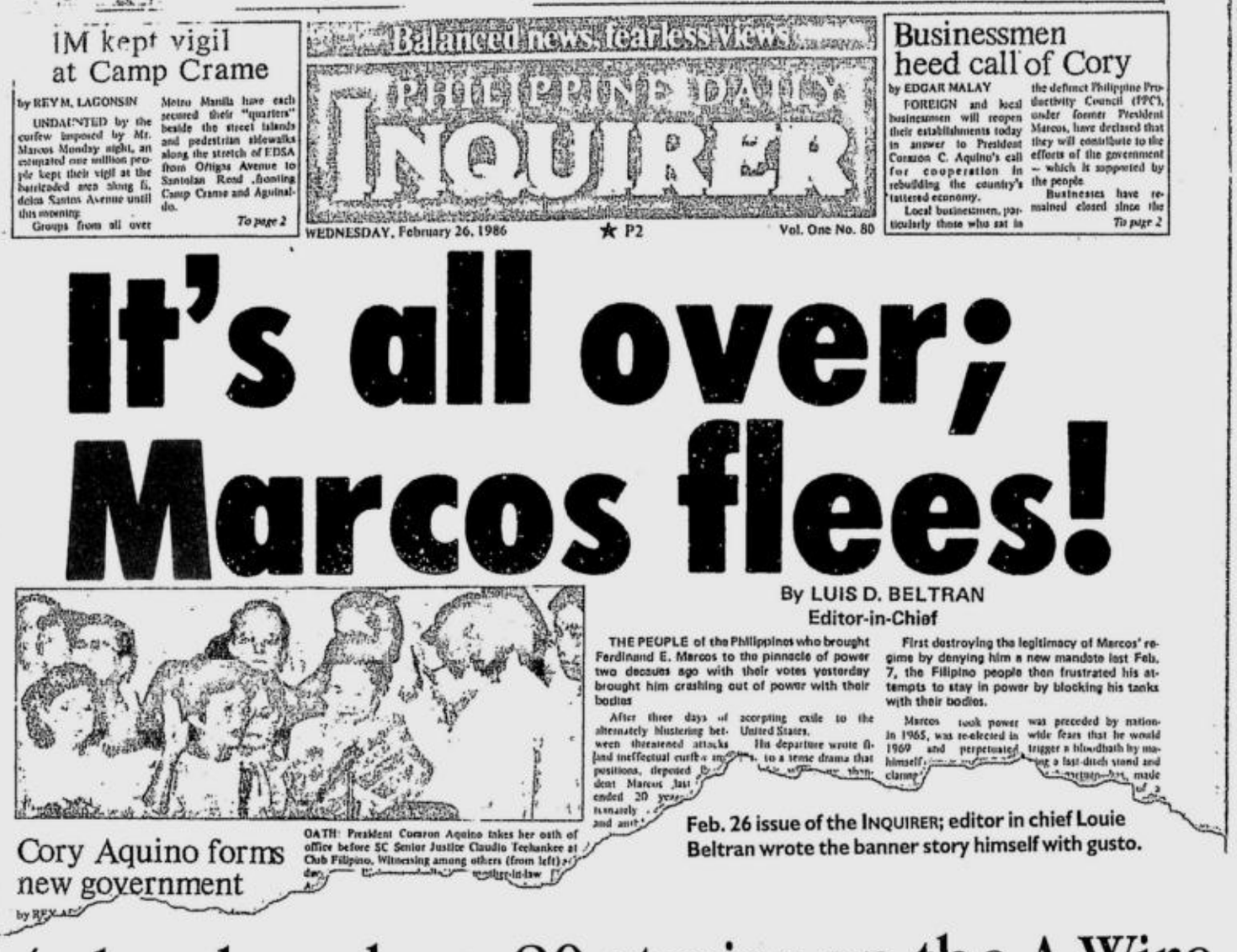
I called the news desk. David, already in, was filing stories. In the next several hours, I phoned in whatever scrap of information I could get.

Correspondents from the world's major newspapers trickled in. We were told to go to the social hall. Enrile and Gen. Fidel Ramos were seated at a long table surrounded by bodyguards. Enrile announced he was breaking with Marcos.

"He misread me. He thought I'd be like the men who say yes to him," Enrile said. "I am a peasant, not like him who was born a rich man. I've seen danger more than he has seen in his life ... I have long wanted to break off, but I just couldn't do it."

The room was astounded. The man who for years had looked so obedient to Marcos was full of defiance.

Every five minutes or so, I would run to a phone and tell David what Enrile and Ramos were saying.



IM kept vigil at Camp Crame

by REY M. LAGONSIN

UNDAUNTED by the curfew imposed by Mr. Marcos Monday night, an estimated one million people kept their vigil at the barricaded area along E. delos Santos Avenue until this morning.

Groups from all over Metro Manila have each secured their "quarters" beside the street islands and pedestrian sidewalks along the stretch of EDSA from Ortigas Avenue to Santolan Road ,fronting Camp Crame and Aguinaldo.

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Balanced news, fearless views

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, February 26, 1986 ★ P2 Vol. One No. 80

Businessmen heed call of Cory

by EDGAR MALAY

FOREIGN and local businessmen will reopen their establishments today in answer to President Corazon C. Aquino's call for cooperation in rebuilding the country's tattered economy.

Local businessmen, particularly those who sat in the defunct Philippine Productivity Council (PPC), under former President Marcos, have declared that they will constitute to the efforts of the government – which is supported by the people.

Businesses have remained closed since the

To page 2

It's all over; Marcos flees!

By LUIS D. BELTRAN
Editor-in-Chief

THE PEOPLE of the Philippines who brought Ferdinand E. Marcos to the pinnacle of power two decades ago with their votes yesterday brought him crashing out of power with their bodies

After three days of alternately blustering between threatened attacks and ineffectual cutbacks on [illegible] positions, deposed President Marcos last night ended 20 years [illegible] and [illegible]

accepting exile to the United States.

His departure wrote finis to a tense drama that [illegible]

First destroying the legitimacy of Marcos' regime by denying him a new mandate last Feb. 7, the Filipino people then frustrated his attempts to stay in power by blocking his tanks with their bodies.

Marcos took power in 1965, was re-elected in 1969 and perpetuated himself [illegible] was preceded by nationwide fears that he would trigger a bloodbath by making a last-ditch stand and [illegible] made [illegible]

Cory Aquino forms new government

by REX A[illegible]

OATH: President Corazon Aquino takes her oath of office before SC Senior Justice Claudio Teehankee at Club Filipino, Witnessing among others (from left) [illegible] brother-in-law [illegible]

Feb. 26 issue of the INQUIRER; editor in chief Louie Beltran wrote the banner story himself with gusto.

4 sleepless days, 80 stories on the A Wire

By Miguel Suarez
PDI News Desk Editor

AS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE MASSED ON EDSA HOURS after Enrile and Ramos announced they had broken with Marcos, my mind raced three years back in time to a raucous, smoke-filled bar in Ermita. Over beer and cigarettes, a small group of foreign correspondents were discussing the day's events when two of them got into an argument.

"They've lost it!" exclaimed one of the newsmen, an American, with a tinge of reproach at how the first massive anti-Marcos demonstration in the wake of Ninoy Aquino's funeral had ended peacefully. "They'll never get rid of Marcos now!"

How wrong he was!

I was covering Cory Aquino, then in Cebu as she and other opposition leaders tried to drum up support for a civil disobedience campaign and a boycott of companies owned by Marcos cronies. The crowds that lined the route of her motorcade and later attended a rally at Fuente Osmeña were reminiscent of the throngs that greeted her and running mate Doy Laurel a month earlier as they campaigned for the Feb. 7 snap presidential election. It seemed as though the entire province of Cebu was out that day in January, lined up on both sides of a coastal highway around the entire island.

It was past noon on Feb. 22 when I returned to my hotel room to phone in a story that Cory had already picked out members of her future Cabinet.

Ben Alabastro, who would normally be off on Saturdays but had taken over my shift at the news desk in Manila, was agitated. He had just been tipped off that Enrile had broken with Marcos and was holed out at Camp Aguinaldo. Forget my story, I told Ben, and go find out what was going on there.

Stuck in Cebu

After ringing Belinda Cunanan's room and apprising her of what I had just been told, I jumped into a taxi and headed for Fuente Osmeña. Cory was already addressing the crowd. Nene Pimentel said he knew nothing about what was taking place in Manila and neither did anyone else in Cory's party.

Directing news coverages was part of my responsibility as Philippine news editor for The Associated Press. Yet, here I was stuck in Cebu, with no available flights to Manila and with opposition leaders just as ignorant as myself about events in the capital. I worried that the only help Ben had at that time was another newsman taking the day off and chief of bureau David Briscoe, who was out of reach. All the other AP people from such bureaus as Tokyo, Bangkok and Singapore who had helped us cover the election were long gone.

Long nights

What a great relief it was when, back in the hotel later that afternoon, I found out that Briscoe had already put out a few leads. But it would be a long night, actually the first of many.

A crowd that included weekend diners as well as local journalists and foreign correspondents had formed in front of a television set in the lobby of the Magellan Hotel. Thanks to FEN (the US military's Far East Network) they caught glimpses of Enrile and Ramos' news conference. Someone had also turned on Radio Veritas full blast in another part of the lobby. By the time Marcos came on TV, the journalists had grown restless and some had gone out in search of a statement from Cory and other opposition leaders.

Pimentel, John Osmeña, Ramon Mitra, Bono Adaza and a few others showed up at the hotel later, but they did not have much to say. It turned out that some of them had tried but failed to convince Cory to fly down to Davao City and set up a provisional government.

80 stories on A Wire

No statement would come from Cory until her news conference the following morning, when she called again on Marcos to step down and appealed to civilians and "decent elements" in the military to support the putschists trapped in Crame and Aguinaldo.

I made it back to Manila in the afternoon of Feb. 23, just as our reinforcements from other Asian bureaus were coming in. The volume of copy the team would move to the rest of the world was something I had never seen in nearly a dozen years with the AP.

Whereas the Manila bureau would be elated in the past to get at least one story a day on the "A Wire"—AP's crème de la crème that got the world's top stories to every major newspaper and radio station in the United States—we had about 80 Philippine stories on the A Wire on those four sleepless days alone, with some help from the Washington bureau.

My first excursion out of the office since returning from Cebu would be to Edsa, just before dawn on Feb. 24.

The crowds had thinned out considerably during the night. Near the corner of Edsa and Bonny Serrano was a phalanx of soldiers, but it was hard to tell on whose side they were until they started swinging their batons and lobbing teargas. Suddenly, the chilly February morning breeze changed direction and blew the acrid fumes back into the ranks of the soldiers. The crowds cheered, and calls went out for reinforcements.

By mid-morning, journalists were being shooed away from the Malacañang Press Office, then in a building adjacent to the St. Jude Church. It was no longer safe, warned Col. Vicente Tigas.

Blast on street

Sure enough, as I crossed J.P. Laurel Street, which was deathly quiet and deserted, I felt a loud blast behind me, accompanied by the sound of breaking glass combined with the crack of splitting wood and crunching gravel. As I swung around, a Sikorsky assault helicopter came into view over the treetops and quickly pulled away. A few explosions followed the first blast, and then came bursts of M-16 rifle fire. The place reeked of gunpowder.

One soldier, speaking through the shut iron gates, said he had been hit by shrapnel but it was not serious. Losing no time, I knocked on the door of a nearby apartment and phoned the news desk.

A short distance away, thousands of students taunted soldiers manning barbed-wire barricades on Mendiola Bridge. One of them shouted at the soldiers to give up, saying, "We now have an air force and you don't." The soldiers did nothing.

Marcos would go on the air again shortly afterwards to complain that his family was cowering in fear inside the Palace because of the threat of more helicopter attacks. But mind you, he added, he was fit and strong and "quite ready to go into combat."

'Marcos pa rin'

Back at the Palace the following morning to cover Marcos's inauguration, I found Malacañang in disarray. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Marcos loyalists were trampling on the vegetable plots into which Imelda Marcos had converted the once-manicured lawns. "Marcos *pa rin!*" they chanted.

No one outside the Ceremonial Hall heard Marcos's speech. Seconds after he began talking, saboteurs knocked off the television relay to Roberto Benedicto's Kanlaon Broadcasting Center. On seeing the TV monitor blink out, Hermie Rivera, one of Marcos's close-in media aides, slumped in his seat, arms dangling loosely and chin resting on his chest. Marcos didn't seem aware of what had just happened.

No one in the hall could hear him either. The 500 people admitted to the ceremony were standing on the velvet-covered benches, yelling at each other to sit down so they could get a better view of Marcos.

Borgy in battle fatigues

Most of them wore casual attire and some were in slippers. They had littered the carpet with plastic cups and a few were even smoking, normally taboo in Marcos's presence because of his allergies.

Only seven of his more than 20 ministers were present. Conspicuously absent were Arturo Tolentino, who was to have been sworn in as Vice President, and Prime Minister Cesar Virata. Marcos' grandson, Borgy, was a sight to behold. Like his uncle Bongbong, the three-year-old tot came in military battle fatigues.

They did not say goodbye

Appearing on a Palace balcony later, Marcos, flanked by Imelda and the rest of his family, addressed the noisy crowd below. Both he and Imelda had a few fighting words, but not one of them told the crowd that all but a few thousand soldiers—mostly in the Presidential Security Group—had abandoned them. Nor did they say they'd be gone in a few more hours.

Late that night, after Ramos' confirmation that US helicopters had flown the Marcoses to Clark Air Base and not Paoay in Ilocos Norte as widely rumored, I waited for a chance to interview Enrile. He was back at his office in Camp Aguinaldo, receiving a long line of visitors. It was near 2 a.m. when I was ushered into his office and he briefly recounted Marcos's last two telephone calls pleading with him to be allowed to stay on as ceremonial president.

Back in the office, I began pounding away on a side bar. It told of how Marcos, who had ruled for 20 years without challenge, found his last days a nightmare of error, bombast and finally humiliation.

"Wow ... Wow," David kept muttering on the other end.

In Enrile's room later, the phones kept ringing. Taking one call, the rebel minister spoke softly into the phone, his face drawn. I called in that detail, too.

Rumors swirled: "*Aatakihin daw tayo ngayong gabi.*"

David sounded deathly worried for me. He said: "If you want to leave, please go."

I have never been a brave man. That night I realized that perhaps, in some situations, it is not the individual who makes the decisions for himself but the situation decides for him. I stayed on.

Unforgettable dawn

Hearing people had begun to gather on Edsa, I went around the camp to see. It was past midnight. Civilians were leaning over the walls and dropping food packs. They were not more than a few dozens.

The massive tide of people support for the rebels had begun as a small wave before dawn.

Years dim memories but not the memory of that Sunday when Enrile, a rifle slung over his shoulder, crossed Edsa to link up with Ramos at Crame.

Loudly reciting the Rosary, their heads erect, and trying to look brave, nuns marched like soldiers behind the man who had once been the face of a repressive regime.

Enrile was finally out in the open, and I kept looking around for possible assassins. His head bowed in deep thought, Enrile marched on.

Then the cheering crowds swallowed him. I called David and said I had never seen anything like it.

I break a leg

On the third day, the rebels knocked out Channel 4.

I pleaded with an old man at the gate of his house near the TV station to let me use his phone. Sounds of gunfire echoed around us.

In the sala, a scared woman crouched against a wall. I told the News Desk that loyalist troops were putting up resistance.

The fighting subsided, I walked into Channel 4 and saw rebels ripping off Marcos' wall pictures with the ends of their rifles.

Guns blazed again. A soldier shouted: "*Umaatake sila!*" I told the office that Marcos troops were on a counterattack, then I ran out to the lobby, looking for an exit. I hadn't noticed a low fountain, fell into it and broke my leg. I didn't know the fountain had been emptied of its water.

At the hospital, a doctor putting my leg in a cast asked if Marcos would be able to hold out. I said I thought he would.

That night, Marcos appeared on Channel 9. Seated at a table in a gloomy room, he looked so alone, as if bereft of all power.

Marcos on his knees

"Is this being broadcast on TV and radio?" Marcos asked, not aware he was on. "Mr. President, you are on TV and radio," someone said.

"But I can't hear myself anymore," Marcos said.

Facing the camera, he began issuing orders, calling on supporters to come to the Palace.

At long last, he was on his knees.

David asked me to do a night lead. The story I wrote was of a man talking to a nation that was no longer listening.

The next night, the Marcoses flew out of the Palace. Foreign news agencies scrambled to put out a FLASH, each wanting to be the first to tell the world the dictator had fallen.

The man who had ruled my life for 20 years, made me talk in whispers or look over my shoulder before I said anything about him or his wife during the harsh years of his regime, whose decrees caused me to be detained twice by police *berdugos* known to torture detainees, the only man I had seen surrounded by so many psychopaths, was gone.

Somehow I felt an emptiness in my life.

THE PALACE

Bloodied 'barong Tagalog' and whiff of expensive perfume

By Mel Lopez

(The author, a former mayor Manila, was part of the opposition struggle against Ferdinand Marcos. He was at Edsa during the 1986 uprising and was among those who first entered Malacañang after Marcos fled. Here are some of his recollections):

ON THE SECOND DAY of the uprising, government forces began moving towards Aguinaldo and Crame. I remember vividly the moment when, amidst cheers from the crowd, I hung a rosary on the main gate of Aguinaldo, symbolically locking it.

The rosary was one of the emblems of the peaceful revolution.

Mission: Protect Palace

Two days later, when word came out that the Marcoses had left the country, I was told by opposition leaders Salvador Laurel and Lorenzo Tañada to proceed to Malacañang to protect its historical and cultural relics from the mobs.

I joined the first group of "freedom fighters" to enter Malacañang. Our group included Tarlac Gov. Jose "Apeng" Yap and Attys. Jaime Lopez, Francis Garchitorena and Jejomar Binay.

Inside, we met Col. Carlos B. Manalo of the Philippine Constabulary, whom Gen. Fidel Ramos had sent to search the area for booby traps.

DEFINING MOMENT: The author Mel Lopez (extreme left), who was to become post-Edsa's mayor of Manila, stood tall with the key players of Edsa, Enrile and Ramos. Behind is Gringo Honasan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

I recall feeling a deep compassion for Marcos when I saw his empty bed. Beside it stood a small writing table. A toilet was nearby.

The 7 x 15-meter room looked and smelled like a hospital.

It stank of blood and urine, probably from frequent kidney treatments. Two dialysis machines and large medicine cabinets stood against the walls. Sprawled on the floor, on either side of the bed, were two foam mattresses, presumably used by doctors or medical aides at night.

Barong for oathtaking

Yap went through the Marcos things. He touched a bloodied *barong tagalog*—the former President had worn earlier in the day during his oathtaking on the balcony.

Although ill, Marcos loved to work, I realized. He had small working tables not only in his bedroom but also in his bathroom.

I supposed he continued to pore over and sign documents while he was undergoing treatment, or even while he was in the bathroom.

Large footprints

But what struck me most were the signs that the Marcoses had left in a hurry. Suitcases and boxes of medicines lined the walls leading to a small, inner room.

The door opened to a grassy knoll facing the Pasig. An escape route, I thought.

Large and muddy footprints marked the path leading to the bedroom: They were probably the footprints of American military personnel or big Filipino soldiers who had come to fetch him.

Last prayer

Candles still glowed at the bedroom altar: The family must have prayed before they left. A cook told us that Imelda had been praying with a certain Baby Rodriguez and one Mrs Espinosa.

I had no more anger left for Ferdinand Marcos after I saw his room.

Nearing Imelda's own bedroom, I caught the whiff of expensive perfume and I knew, without looking, that her room would be opulent and ostentatious.

I didn't want to feel anger again, so I did not go in.

Guns left behind

I went down and saw several high powered firearms on the ground floor: Thompson submachineguns as well as carbines, which Marcos had probably used when he was a young guerrilla. As for the controversial Springfields, he must have used them during his student days, Col. Manalo said.

Witnesses told me some firearms in the Malacañang armory were stolen by militants who had entered the Palace ahead of us.

Reminiscing on my fight against the late dictator, I believe he might have handled the case of Ninoy Aquino better if he had not been ill. And he became intoxicated with power, the power the people had given him.

He missed the opportunity.

BDO

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(registration starts at 8:30 AM)

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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
RESIDENTIAL		
CALOOCAN		
1. L8 B2, Road Lot 2, Perpetual Subd., Bagumbong	LA - 240	312,000
LAS PIÑAS		
2. House & Lot / Marcellius Venezia Homes BF Resort Village, Pamplona	LA - 204 FA - 105.28	1,000,000
PARAÑAQUE		
• Washington Tower, Asiaworld City, Tambo		
3. Unit 2C	LA - 339.43	8,485,000
4. 1 parking slot for Unit 2C		400,000
5. Unit 9B (w/ lease)	LA - 333.2	8,996,000
6. Unit 9C (w/ lease)	LA - 347.67	9,387,000
7. Parking space for Unit 9B & 9C (w/ lease)		400,000
8. Unit 3B (w/ lease)	LA - 323.69	8,092,000
9. Parking space for Unit 3B (w/ lease)		400,000
10. Unit 2 B	LA - 323.69	8,092,000
11. Parking space for Unit 2B (w/ lease)		400,000
12. Penthouse Unit D (w/ lease)	LA - 617.13	21,599,000
13. 2 parking slots for Penthouse for Unit D (w/ lease)		800,000
14. H & L, No. 110 Elizalde St., BF Homes, Parañaque City (w/ lease)	LA - 336 FA - 194	4,000,000
15. H & L w/ swimming pool, No. 25 MJS & LPL Avenues Levitown Subd., La Huerta	LA - 801 FA - 182.70	6,000,000
16. H&L, EJ Montilla, BF Homes	LA - 280 FA - 168	3,200,000
PASIG		
17. Condo/Unit 606, Crisanta Tower, Oranbo (with parking slot) (w/ lease)	FA - 111.5	5,000,000
18. Townhouse/Eastside Manor Townhomes C. Raymundo Avenue, Maybunga (w/ lease)	LA -113 FA - 226.82	6,000,000
QUEZON CITY		
19. Temple Drive, Greenmeadows Subd., Murphy District	LA - 3552	99,456,000
TAGUIG		
20. 2 Sty H & L w/ 10 apt. units, Molave St., Bagong Bayan	LA- 1025 FA - 594.88	3,700,000
ANTIPOLO		
21. Lot 16 Block 5, Pearwood Street., Cottonwood Heights	LA - 367	1,285,000
• Foliage Hills		
22. Lot 2 Block 1	LA - 240	840,000
23. Lot 4 Block 1	LA - 240	840,000
24. Lot 8 Block 3	LA - 317	1,109,000
• Mission Hills		
25. L10 B 1, Sta. Barbara	LA - 1026	4,104,000
26. L34 B 1, Concorde St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
27. L17 B 2, Sta. Catalina Ave., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
28. L22 B 2, Concorde St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
29. L36 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
30. L40 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
31. L44 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
32. L48 B 3, Clarkson St., Sta. Catalina	LA - 308	1,232,000
33. L6 B 1, Sta. Monica Ave., Sta. Monica (through lot)	LA - 646	2,584,000
• Town and Country Hills, Bo. Munang		
34. P1 Blk 16 Lot 25, Kanlaon St.	LA - 240	602,000
35. P1 Blk 18 Lot 24, Mayon cor. Kanlaon St.	LA - 464	1,378,000
• Town and Country Estates, Sumulong Highway		
36. P1 Blk 4A Lot 2	LA - 994	4,165,000
37. P1 Blk 4A Lot 9	LA - 1357	5,860,000
38. P1 Blk 4A Lot 10	LA - 1351	5,836,000
39. P1 Blk 4A Lot 11	LA -1635	6,735,000
40. P1 Blk 4A Lot 18	LA -1344	5,806,000
41. P1 Blk 4B Lot 3	LA -1454	6,285,000
42. P1 Blk 4B Lot 4	LA -1169	5,050,000
43. P1 Blk 4B Lot 5	LA -1153	4,980,000
44. P1 Blk 4B Lot 6	LA -1410	6,090,000
45. 10 P1 Blk 4B Lot 7	LA -1502	6,490,000
46. P1 Blk 4B Lot 8	LA -1449	6,260,000
47. P1 Blk 4C Lot 4	LA -1550	6,700,000
48. P1 Blk 4C Lot 8	LA -1414	6,110,000
49. P1 Blk 14B Lot 2	LA -1176	5,080,000
50. P1 Blk 14B Lot 4	LA -970	4,190,000
BATANGAS		
51. Lot 1-B J.P. Villegas St., Bo. San Pedro, Sto. Tomas	LA-111328.5	22,000,000
BULACAN		
52. 2 storey H & L, Lot 2, Blk. 7, Richmond Village Brgy Pare, Meycauayan	LA - 252 FA - 283.50	2,500,000
53. Resl Agrl Lots 2234 and 1678 National Road (DRT) Highway Bo. Anyatam, San Ildefonso (w/ MARO recognized claimants)	LA - 60705	3,500,000
CAVITE		
54. Unfinished House w/ basement, Lot 25 Block 30, Tanguile St., Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lancaan, Dasmariñas	LA - 514 FA - 297	1,500,000
55. H & L, Lot 6,7 & 8, Block B, #10 Progressive Village 6 Subd. Brgy. San Nicolas, Bacoor	LA - 740 FA - 352.10	3,000,000
• Town and Country West, Molino Bacoor		
56. P2 Blk 7 Lot 4, Octavio St.	LA - 160	455,000
57. P2A Blk 16 Lot 7, Pontevera St.	LA - 200	612,000

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
LAGUNA		
58. Lot 29-B, Block 4, Road Lot 2 cor Road Lot 4 Monte Cecilia Subd., Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao	LA - 1356	1,750,000
59. Resd'l lot Sitio Putol, San Isidro, Cabuyao (w/informal settlers, property cut by barangay road)	LA - 2382	2,100,000
COMMERCIAL		
MAKATI		
• ACT Tower Sen. Gil Puyat Ave & HV dela Costa St.		
60. Office Condo Unit Plus PS / Unit 7A (through lot)	FA -325.2	10,406,000
61. Office Condo Unit Plus PS / Unit 8A (through lot)	FA - 325.2	10,406,000
62. Condo/Unit 3B; (through lot) (w/ lease)	FA - 280.53	8,415,000
• BDO Plaza, Paseo de Roxas		
63. Condo/7th Floor Unit 1	FA - 384	13,440,000
64. Condo/7th Floor Unit 2	FA - 339	11,865,000
65. Condo/17th Floor (w/ lease)	FA - 373	13,055,000
66. Condo/20th Floor Unit 2	FA - 367	12,845,000
67. 11 Parking Slots for BDO Plaza (w/ lease)		5,500,000
68. Office/WH Bldg., St. Paul St., San Antonio Village.	LA - 1220 FA - 904.50	25,000,000
• Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.		
69. Condo/Unit 1901 (w/ lease)	FA - 320.69	20,043,000
70. Condo/Unit 1902 (w/ lease)	FA - 286.26	17,890,000
71. Condo/Unit 1903 (w/ lease)	FA - 295.49	18,469,000
72. Condo/Unit 1904 (w/ lease)	FA - 325.55	20,346,000
73. Condo/Unit 1905 (w/ lease)	FA - 320.5	20,031,000
74. Condo/Unit 1906 (w/ lease)	FA - 336.38	21,023,000
75. Condo/Unit 2302 (Under lease)	FA - 438.47	27,404,000
76. No. 29 High Rise Tower, with 10 parking slots; (w/ lease)	FA - 1317.44	82,340,000
77. Unit 26, 26th Floor, The World Centre Condo. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., HV dela Costa, Salcedo Vill. (through lot, with 8 parking slots) Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.	FA - 715.28	39,764,000
78. No. 379 Sen Gil Puyat Ave. and Jupiter St., Makati City (5 sty bldg on through lot, w/ rental arrears)	LA - 2000	225,000,000
QUEZON CITY		
79 Lots 3 & 4, Blk. 13, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C5), Libis	LA - 831	37,300,000
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL (MIXED USE)		
MALABON		
80. Res'l./Comm'l. Bldg/Lot 25-A-3, RDC Comp., Reparo Rd.	LA - 1000 FA - 3712	23,700,000
MUNTINLUPA		
81. VL Acacia Ave., Madrigal Business Park, Brgy. Ayala Alabang	LA -1194	57,312,000
PASAY		
82. Comm'l. lot / Roxas Blvd., San Rafael w/ informal settlers on 1/3 of lot	LA - 3020	108,720,000
BATAAN		
83. Rawland along Roman Highway, Alas-asin, Mariveles w/ claimants	LA - 33468	8,500,000
BULACAN		
84. Agrifarm/Rawland/Skyline Road, Sitio Tungkong Mangga Bo. Gaya-gaya, San Jose Del Monte	LA - 11904.3 FA - 3515	15,200,000
CAVITE		
85. Agrifarm/Rawland, Toklong, Kawit, no right of way	LA -18457	7,383,000
LAGUNA		
86. Rawland /Bo. Bucal & Lecheria, Calamba	LA - 34750	41,700,000
87. Agricultural land/ Bo. Mabato, Calamba. WOP	LA - 10070	3,900,000
TARLAC		
88. Comm'l. / Res'l Lots, Moncada, Tarlac. w/ informal settlers	LA - 22619	9,050,000

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THE PEOPLE

A tank in sea of worshippers

By Wilfredo Villanueva

I DIDN'T SLEEP. MY ears were glued to the radio. A man who said he was a PMAer spoke of the long grey line. "Soldiers, come," he said. Help Ramos and Enrile and defend our motherland. It sounded like a looming battle between angels and demons.

I had tears in my eyes. I stood up and dressed.

Radio Veritas was playing back Cardinal Sin's exhortation for the people to go the Edsa, and the song "Mambo, Mambo, Magsaysay."

I said goodbye to my family, looking at them as they slept.

It was daybreak when I arrived at Edsa.

I helped barricade Edsa between Connecticut and Katipunan avenues. We had no leader. Every man assumed it was going to be a pitched battle between man and machine.

Towards midday, however, Edsa was full of people. The front moved like a high tide to Ortigas, where cars and buses were used to stop Marine armored vehicles.

On Ortigas avenue, I saw a military vehicle towering over the heads of people who were wearing yellow. There were many images of Mother Mary as there were people.

The dark brown and olive drab battle vehicle stood like a fort in a sea of worshippers.

The people were mostly praying, imploring Gen. Artemio Tadiar to stand down.

Once in a while the machine would roar, like a caged animal wanting to swallow the crowd. There were cries from the women, but not of panic, but of supplication and surrender.

It was like God was there and His lambs were ready to fling themselves under the tracks of military steel, if ever General Tadiar did not have the fear of the Lord.

But he did fear the Lord.

(The writer is an advertising executive)

'God intervened'

By Anton C. Natividad

While events were unfolding fast at Edsa, I heeded the call for citizen support. On the night of Feb. 24, I told my driver to bring all the used tires on my Land Rover and headed for Edsa. My intention was to give away all the tires for burning. There were brownouts then. Edsa and the streets leading to it were unlighted.

On Feb. 25, after Aquino and Marcos were proclaimed separately as Presidents, I went to Edsa in the afternoon. Tension was frightening.

Tired, we went home after reports said that huge crowds of people were heading for Malacanang amid rumors that Marcos and his family had fled. There was widespread jubilation among the crowds.

The morning after Marcos left the country, I passed Edsa on my way to visit my sister in Makati. This time, I smelled the strangeness of the air I breathed. The air was fresh—energizing, light. I had the feeling that it was rejuvenating.

Along Edsa, I noticed the street was miraculously clean and it was emptied of people, unlike during those events nights before. It was as if events on those previous nights were dreams and nightmares. The morning after the revolution was a day of awakening from a deep slumber, facing a brighter day.

It was then that I realized that God had intervened at Edsa.

I noticed the people I met on the road were smiling with joy, while convoy of smiling soldiers were giving out the "peace" sign. It was the day of joy, unity, harmony and peace!

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Pagunsan pads TCC lead

3rd straight 71 pushes SEAG champ near title

RAMIL Bisera blasts out of the sandtrap on hole 8 of the TCC Invitational at the TCC course in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. JESS YUSON

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—JUVIC Pagunsan is 18 holes away from making the swift transition from an amateur champion to a professional winner.

Playing on a course where he capped an illustrious campaign as a national team standout last December, Pagunsan scored a third straight 1-over-par 71 yesterday to open up a two-stroke lead after three rounds of the P4 million The Country Club Invitational here.

The lean, dusky and power-hitting Pagunsan parred the last 10 holes while his closest challengers struggled on the sleek greens of the exclusive TCC course and closed in on the P1.2 million top prize in his second tournament as a money player with a 54-hole total of 213.

"Putting will be the key factor in the final round," said the 27-year-old Pagunsan in Filipino, who steadied himself after a roller coaster start of three bogeys and two birdies on the first eight holes of the wind-swept course.

Cassius Casas, the event's inaugural champion in 2003, moved into position to challenge Pagunsan even as top favorite Frankie Miñoza and defending champion Jerome Delariarte shot similar 2-under 68s to advance six strokes off the lead.

Casas needed two birdies on the last five holes to match Pagunsan's 71 and tie first-round leader Ramil Bisera for second place at 215. Bisera, a former caddy from Davao's famous Apo course, birdied the 17th then rescued par after barely missing the big lake beside the 18th for a 72.

Artemio Murakami, a brand-new pro like Pagunsan, held the solo lead going into the final nine then stumbled on two bogeys and a double bogey to wind up in a deadlock for fourth with Gerald Rosales at 217. Murakami finished with a 74 and Rosales accounted for one of the day's three par 70s.

Former RP Open winner Robert Pactolerin also had a 72 for solo sixth at 218, then came Miñoza and Delariarte who took advantage of their "lucky escape" to catch up with Mars Pucay (73) and Carito Villaroman (71) at 219.

The 46-year-old Miñoza, who is in the event for only the second time, had nines of 33-35 in a five-birdie, three-bogey round. Delariarte birdied three times on the back to highlight a 35-33 trip on the par-70 course that hosted the SEAG golf competition last December.

The two finished tied with five others at the cut-off mark of 151 in the second round. Only two from the group were supposed to complete the last 16 slots for the final two rounds, but organizer Ricky Razon, who is holding the tournament in memory his father Don Pocholo, decided to allow all those in the deadlock to advance.

Although Pagunsan's last RP stint came in the Putra Cup in late December, it was in the SEAG where Pagunsan capped his distinguished amateur career with a gold medal double, winning the individual competition and powering the national men's team to a runaway victory.

Pagunsan easily hurdled the Asian Tour qualifying early last month and played in his first pro tournament, under the sponsorship of ports services magnate Razon and Maruman, in the Pakistan Open where he earned a little over $1,000 after collapsing in the final round.

If he wins, he would pocket one of the biggest championship prizes in a tournament outside of the RP Open.

Third-round scores:

213—Juvic Pagunsan 71-71-71 (36-35); **215**—C. Casas 69-75-71 (37-34), R. Bisera 68-75-72 (36-36); **217**—G. Rosales 70-77-70 (34-36), A. Murakami 70-73-74 (35-39); **218**—R. Pactolerin 69-77-72 (35-37); **219**—F. Miñoza 77-74-68 (33-35), J. Delariarte 76-75-68 (35-33), C. Villaroman 72-76-71 (35-36), M. Pucay 72-74-73 (36-37); **220**—M. Dizon 74-76-70 (36-34),R. Sasutil 71-79-70 (35-35); **221**—R. Sinfuego 70-77-74 (35-39); **222**—E. Salvador 77-74-71 (35-36), A. Lascuna 73-76-73 (36-37); **224**—C. La'O 72-73-79 (37-42); **225**—R. Pagunsan 75-76-74 (38-36), D. Zarate 72-79-74 (36-38); **226**—P. Miñoza 77-74-75 (37-38), A. Que 71-79-76 (37-39; **227**—R. Alit 77-74-76 (39-37); **228**—A. Tanpinco (AM) 71-76-81 (39-42).

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Canlubang completes PAL Interclub double /A28

■ Stars fade in Match Play /A29

FEU grabs nat'l students crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JONAS VILLANUEVA CAME THROUGH WITH five straight points in the final 28 seconds as Far Eastern University pulled off a come-from-behind 83-75 victory over Letran yesterday to capture the 2006 National Students Basketball Championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

Villanueva completed a three-point-play then scored on a fastbreak off his own steal to give the Tamaraws a decisive 80-75 cushion that eventually sealed FEU's triumphant comeback after skipping the national intercollegiate league for many years.

Arwind Santos hardly made an impact in this showdown between the reigning UAAP and NCAA champions until he hit a three-pointer that tied the score at 75 with barely a minute left.

FEU tightened its defenses and held Letran to a single field goal attempt from there. The Knights hastened their downfall as Eric Rodriguez bungled two free throws in the dying seconds.

The Tams trailed most of the fourth quarter as they groped for form without RJ Rizada and Mark Isip. Santos went on to finish with 17 points while Villanueva contributed 16.

University of Visayas earlier bested 2004 runner-up Philippine Christian University, 58-51, to nail third place.

San Beda relied on John Carlos Herminda's 24-point splurge to down San Sebastian, 91-83, in overtime and bag the high school championship.

The PCU Baby Dolphins salvaged third place after beating La Salle-Zobel, 70-66, in the other juniors game.

The scores:

FEU 83—Santos 17, Villanueva 16, Chan 15, Barcellano 13, Gerilla 9, Adolfo 4, Dela Cruz 4, Fernandez 3, Manghahas 1, Baracel 1, Villanueva J. 0.

LETRAN 75—Aldave 17, Alcaraza 10, Bautista 10, Aban 9, Andaya 9, Rodriguez 8, Jazul 7, Quinday 3, Pinera 2, Mondragon 0, Realista 0.

Quarters: 18-18, 38-41, 63-60, 83-75

Gabi gets shot at IBF plum

DAVAO'S DIOSDADO "PRINCE" GABI GETS A rare chance at a world title when he challenges International Boxing Federation flyweight king Vic Darchinyan in a 12-round war on March 3 at the Chumash Casino Resort in Sta. Ynez, California.

Michael Koncz, who now manages Gabi, confirmed in an e-mail yesterday that Solar Sports has decided to cover the fight where the Freddie Roach-trained Gabi will attempt to wrest the 112-lb crown of the heavy-punching Darchinyan.

Koncz added that the first televised bout will be aired at 8 p.m. and the telecast of the Gabi fight will start at about noon on March 4.

Gabi (27-2-1, 18 KOs) and Darchinyan (24-0, 19 KOs) will clash in the Shobox: The New Generation card. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

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4. Daet, Camarines, Norte	P5.0M	03/31/06
5. Puerto Princesa, Palawan	P5.0M	03/15/06
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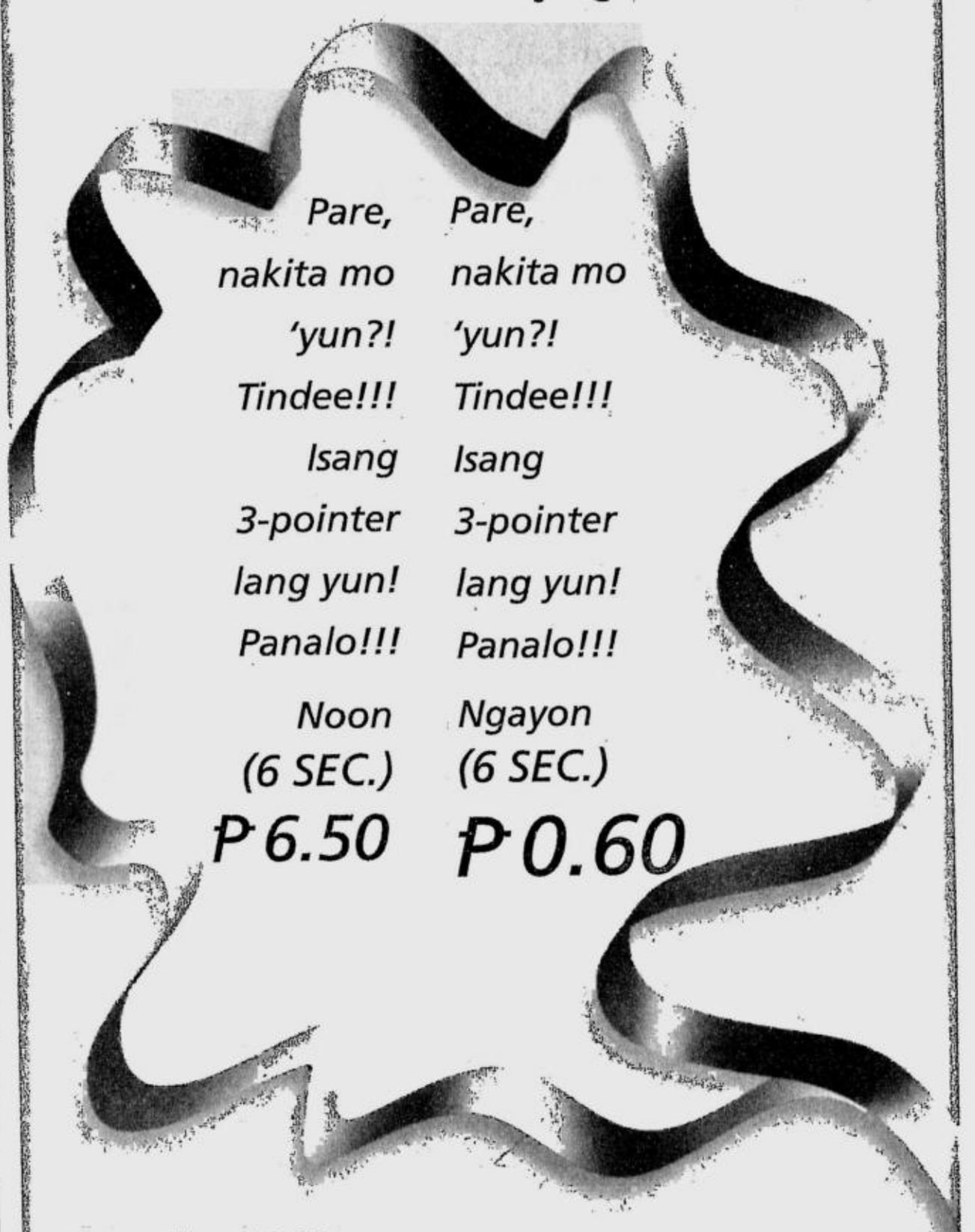

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Orcollo dazzles in maiden US stint

HE CAME, HE PLAYED, HE CONquered.

Dennis Orcollo arrived in the United States International Pool Tour hardly noticed. But by Sunday, after topping the tough IPT qualifying tournament C, the 27-year-old pride of Surigao is being hailed as the next Filipino billiards sensation.

The acknowledged Philippine "Money Game King" put up a sterling show in ruling the winner's side at the Hard Times Billiards in Bellflower, California. He tamed the field that included the likes of former US Open titlist Oliver Ortmann and WPA world 8-ball and 9-ball champ Chia-Ching-wu of Taiwan.

The 5-foot-6 Orcollo's victory netted him the IPT card needed to enter the eight IPT events staking more than $8 million.

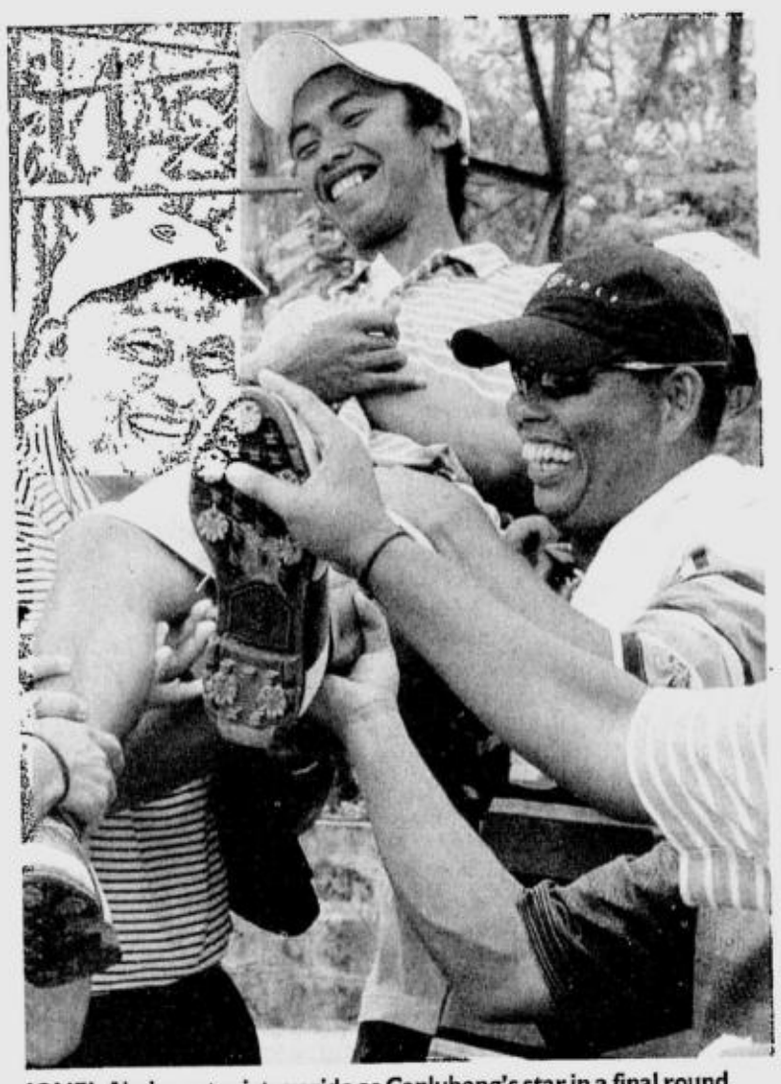
"Dennis' hard work paid off," said Orcollo's benefactor Perry Mariano, who supported Orcollo's entry to the US billiard scene. "He may lack title here in the Philippines, but he's feared as a money game player."

Mariano, who also supports Ronnie Alcano and Antonio Gabica, is optimistic Orcollo will make a name in the IPT.

"US-based Filipinos like him (Orcollo) very much," said Mariano. "A friend said Orcollo made many sensational shots and the crowd focused on his game. He was mobbed the same way 'Bata' (Efren Reyes) and 'Django' (Francisco Bustamante) were mobbed there before. *Roy Luarca*

ORCOLLO holds his symbolic membership card while Filipino fans swarm over him after winning the US IPT qualifying tournament C in Bellflower, California.

Canlubang completes PAL Interclub double



JONEL Ababa gets victory ride as Canlubang's star in a final round rally that gave the Sugar Barons the men's division title of the 59th PAL Interclub yesterday. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

By Musong R. Castillo

DAVAO CITY—IT WAS THE SAME STORY ON A DIFFERENT DAY.

Canlubang ripped Southwoods apart as promised on the final day to handily win the men's Regular championship of the 59th Philippine Airlines Interclub and complete the Sugar Barons' first-ever title sweep yesterday.

Reed-thin Jonel Ababa, playing in a big-time competition on his home course, turned in a second straight one-under-par 71 for 37 points at Apo here to lead the Barons' final-day charge that resulted in a six-point win over defending champion Southwoods.

The Barons tallied 140 for the day to finish with 553 points, easily wiping out Southwoods' two-point lead at day's start as RP pool members Erwin Vinluan and Michael Bibat only scored identical 35s to lead the Carmona-based team's 132 in the final round for a 547 aggregate.

"It was really just a matter of time," non-playing skipper Luigi Yulo said. "We knew we had the edge in this course and by the time our second guy (Ababa) and (Jay) Bayron (second-to-last) got off the 13th green, we knew we had it (won)."

Mark Fernando, a rookie like Ababa, posted a second 36 and Bayron accounted for 35 before Boyet Saragoza's 32 rounded out scoring for the side that won the Senior's championship for the first time last Saturday. Veteran Abe Rosal's 29 was thrown away.

The shotmakers from Laguna raised their record leading total of Regular titles to 13 in this popular event generally acknowledged as the national club team championship.

Canlubang's overpowering performance at Apo yesterday reprised the team's sizzling second round where it moved ahead following a 21-point swing. Ababa and Bayron also led the Barons with 37s on Thursday, which ended with the Carmona-based bets trailing by 11.

The Sugar Barons regained the lead after eight holes and were two up when the last flight holed out on No. 9.

Del Monte, the 2004 champion which will be a co-host next year, posted just 110 points to finish third, 49 behind. Joel Opaco's 32 was the best for the Bukidnon bets with Louie Dacudao contributing 29, Ondoy Mondilla 25 and Iggy Clavecilla 24. Jolan Minoza's 22 was discarded.

Hanson So Jr. rebounded from a 27-point effort on Tuesday with a 34, but Gene Bondoc, also a member of the national training pool, was good for only 28. The 27 of Jong Laput was disregarded.

"They played very well," Southwoods skipper Thirdy Escano said of the Barons. "If you shoot anything close to even par (in this course), you deserve to win."

Ababa, the winner of the initial National Caddies' Open last year, submitted two strong rounds on the course where he caddied for more than seven years.

At the Rancho Palos Verdes, Cebu Country Club captured its fifth Founders Dvision crown in six years with 472. Wack Wack was second with 455.

Palos Verdes topped the Sportswriters Division with 411, nipping by a point Orchard. Villamor was third at 406. Zamboanga ruled the Friendship Division with 362.

Major sponsors are Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, GE Aviation, GMA7, Honda Cars, Davao, INQ7.net, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International, Pagcor, People Asia, Premier Wines and Spirits, Rudy Project, UMBN and Uraya Land Dev't Corp. ABS-CBN Int'l., Fortune Tobacco and Radio Mindanao Network are the corporate backers with 96.3 WRock, Asia Brewery, Century Park Hotel, Honda Megamotors, SM City Davao and Tanduay Rhum the other sponsors.

Here's looking at the 60th PAL Interclub

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DAVAO CITY—BARELY HAS THE SMOKE OF battle cleared but my thoughts are on next year's PAL Interclub already.

Know why?

Next year is the 60th edition of the PAL Interclub, the nation's unofficial golf team championship.

If Domeng "Popeye" Duerme is upbeat, I can't blame him. In 1997, Domeng scored big by masterminding the golden edition of the PAL Interclub in Bacolod.

Not a single hitch hit the Bacolod bash. Domeng was ecstatic even weeks after it was over.

"Here we go again," Domeng tells me over a late, late lunch at Ken Angeles' Yellow Fin Restaurant along Quimpo Blvd. "The coming PAL Interclub will be another challenge. But I'm not worried one bit. I have a strong support staff and with teamwork as our guiding principle, I'm certain of another trouble-free PAL Interclub next year."

The 50th PAL Interclub was extremely memorable for me.

Know why?

I won the PAL Media Tournament that year. In dramatic fashion yet!

OK, it's bragging time, fellas. This happens only once in a blue moon so, let me go through, please? I'm sure even Jimmy Bautista, Henry So Uy and Bong Cruz won't mind—them being fellow golf buffs anyways.

I've been covering the PAL Interclub for more than a quarter of a century now (there, I've added life to my years, see?). And, as always, our tournament format in the PAL Media Tournament is two rounds, medal.

After the first round in Bacolod, I was three strokes down. By dint of luck, I made a successful rally in the second round to win by one.

Yes, by one, fellas.

You win by one in any tournament, it sticks to your mind the rest of your life.

For the record, I'd won the PAL Media Tournament once, if not twice since we hatched the event in 1978, or 1979 maybe. But the 1997 victory was the sweetest.

First, the business class ticket I earned in 1997 as winner, I gave it to my daughter, Malaya. That year, Malaya used the ticket to fly to New York via Vancouver. It gave her the thrill of her life as it was her first trip to the Big Apple.

Second, I got a high when Rollie Estabillo, the vice president for PAL Corporate Communications, sent me a signed congratulatory note for the feat. Well-written as usual as we all know Rollie is a certified wordsmith like Bob Woodward and Russell Baker, if not William Safire, I had it framed.

Oh, yes, Rollie Estabillo.

During the dinner he hosted on Wednesday for the media covering the event, Rollie mentioned about a plan to put up a huge souvenir program for next year's PAL Interclub.

"Since we will celebrate next year the 60th year of the PAL Interclub, we have to do something big," he said. "A magazine filled with mementos and memoirs should be great stuff!"

I second the motion, Rollie.

Call me for an assignment, any assignment, and I'll come running. Even a one-on-one interview with The Kapitan, I'll not balk. Try me.

The good, ole times about the PAL Interclub, they will always be a joy to write about.

Meanwhile, not only me but also Malaya is looking forward to next year's event so, let me start brushing up on that back swing in preparation for the PAL Media Tournament in Cagayan de Oro City.

I love the challenge of every Big One.

The flying elbow did me in this year although it wasn't downhill all the way. Some good putts allowed me to collect some bets from Domeng Duerme and Jake Ayson—thanks to the putter that Jake Ayson had lent me after my putter of nearly 15 years broke in two at Palos Verdes.

Indeed, you can't win them all.

But also, you can't lose them all.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

SPORTSWATCH

Philippine Open badminton postponed

THE FIRST BINGO BONANZA PHILIPPINE OPEN, ORIGINALLY SLATED MARCH 1-5 at the Philsports Arena, has been postponed indefinitely, according to the organizers of the $120,000 event. "In view of the current situation, participating countries have been duly advised by their respective governments against traveling to the Philippines for the time being," the organizers said in a statement. The organizers are working with the IBF (International Badminton Federation) to find a suitable date within the international calendar. Ticket holders are advised to hold on to their tickets as these will be honored on the new event dates. For refund, contact Ticketworld.

Mighty Kings off to big start

THE MIGHTY FILTER KINGS FIRED A STERN WARNING TO THEIR RIVALS THE other day by scoring a 78-64 win over Chemvision in the Amateur Basketball Association (ABA) Championship at the Tanduay gym in Quiapo. The Kings encountered little trouble in beating Chemvision as they launched their title bid in grand fashion. Terence Tang logged in 18 points, including two treys in the final quarter that saw the Kings pull away from a tight contest. Tang was ably supported by Alex Young and Geo Sia, who chipped in 14 points each.

Fistorama, Golf Power today

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON THE BOUT BETWEEN FLYWEIGHTS Bert Gawat and Danilo Lerio in 10 rounds. The fight was a supporting bout in Edgardo "Boy" Cantada's fight card held recently at the provincial capitol of Misamis Oriental in Cagayan de Oro City. Fistorama, supported by Tanduay, PCSO, Hope and Mapecon, is aired nationwide at 3:30 p.m. on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus, featuring College of St. Benilde Team 1 against College of St. Benilde Team 2 in the 1st Samsung Inter-Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge, airs at 3 p.m.

Gatus, nine others share lead

SAN FERNANDO CITY, PAMPANGA—TOP SEED EDMUNDO GATUS BEAT youngster Froilan Bolico after 40 moves to lead nine others on top with 2.0 points apiece on Friday at the start of the Mayor Oscar R. Rodriguez Cup-Region III Chess Championship at the Robinson's Starmalls here. Other 2-pointers were second seed Marquen Tan, Alfredo Paez, Emerson Barrion, Ali Branzeula, Lito Dormitorio, Nazario Ubanan, Julius Sinangote, Basilio Pandan and Clement Valledor. Gatus takes on Paez, a dentist from Cabuyao, Laguna, in round 3, while Tan, a native of Angeles City, clashes with Barrion.

Werweran x I bikefest rolls off

THE ANNUAL MANGALDAN BIKEFEST DUBBED "WERWERAN X1" WILL BE held today with 70 participants. It will cover a distance of 144 km with P48,500 in cash prizes plus trophies and medals at stake. A project of Mayor Hermino Romero, the event is chaired by Johnny Valencia. Tournament director is Jess Garcia Jr.

Roligon derby stakes P2 million

PROMOTER ROLLY LIGON PRESENTS ANOTHER SURE BLOCKBUSTER, THE Largahan 5-cock derby, on March 11, 14, 16 and 18 at Roligon Mega Cockpit with a guaranteed prize of P2 million. The fastest win champion will drive home a brand new Toyota Vios. Entry fee is P4,400. Only recently, first timer Ed Patawaran of Bulacan emerged solo champion in the Roligon Anniversary Derby (429 entries). Meanwhile, the Boy 2 Sa Roligon 4-cock derby unfolds on Feb. 28 with 35 entries. Host Boy Valenzuela said the prize at stake is P300,000 for an entry fee of P6,600. The fastest win champion will get P20,000 as bonus. Contact 851-2275, 833-1638 at 852-9812.

Topacio paces GCAP race

JUN TOPACIO OF CAVITE SETS OUT AS ONE OF THE FAVORITES WHEN THE Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby series resumes March 1 at the San Juan Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. With the imported Gene Batiea fighters at his disposal, Topacio continues to dominate the field with his JT Emerald entry posting 11.5 points. Rep. Butch Pichay (Pichay Spartan) and Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan Complexor 3000) have 11 markers each, followed by Louie Cua (LCC Leonard, 10), Benjie Lim and Pol Estrellado (Papa Sta. Cruz, 10), Gerry Ramos (Against All Odds, 9), Manny Pacquiao and Antonio (Super Pacman Sagupaan, 9), Rep. Jing Paras and Tony Lasala (San Isidro McKinley, 8.5), Boy Royo (PEBR Makisig, 8.5), Vice Gov. Boyet Joson (Llama SJC)

BACK IN NBC: Valencia City Mayor Jose Galario Jr. (right) and National Basketball Conference secretary general Tito Palma seal with a handshake the Valencia Golden Harvest's return to the NBC, which kicks off its third season on March 10 in Tagaytay City.

RACING

By TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Michael Da Dargaon (5), Suppressed (7), California Lady (2), Staunch Ally (4)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—The Strategist (6), Habagat (3), Epic Energy (7), Something Silver (9)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Nothing to Declare (3), Inca (6), Vitality (5), Sir Guguy (4)
Race 4—(Pebnta/Tri)—Quasimodo (9), King of Fortune (1), Marcor's Charm (3), Dancing Queen (4), Brave Warrior (5)
Race 5—(Tri)—Material Ruler (2), I Love This Game (1), Man Power (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Aya's Dream (13), Daldalera (11), Dashing (7), Big Boss (8), Chicklet (12)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Gem (2), Million Dollar (1), King's Dominion (3), Manila's Smile (6)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (3), Step On The Gas (7), Cool Reception (8), Native Prince (4)
Race 9—(Penta/Tri)—My Sheikh (9), Blitzkreig (4), Angel Eyes (11), Skip Away (6), I Remain (8)
Race 10—(Trifecta)—Ever Mine Now/La Tienne (2), Gold Is Gold (4), Frosty Bally (1)
Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Renzie Stays (12), Friendly Venture (6), Gemstone (4), Speed Admiral (10), Joint Account (9)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Honoree (1), Once And For All (4), Hurry Prince (3), Aminin (7)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mesmerize (4), Brenda Slam (2), Playing Cool (7), Eden's Quest (9), Happy Again (8), Rose And Toy (10)

Samsung Tour finals at Summit

TONTON ASISTIO IS OUT TO PROVE THAT he's the future of local golf when he guns for the championship division title against four veterans in the fourth Samsung Amateur Golf Tour finals on March 2-5 at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

The 16-year-old Asistio will be challenging the likes of Mike Bibat, a member of the gold medal-winning Southeast Asian Games team, former national player Boyet Saragosa and Erwin Vinluan in the 54-hole tourney which assembles the champions of a five-leg nationwide elimination series.

Jong Laput comes in as the fifth participant, replacing Ayala Greenfield leg winner Terence Macatangay who is now attending the University of Portland in Oregon as a golf scholar.

Boy Blue Ocampo, chief organizer of the Samsung Tour, expects a quality fight from the finalists who will dispute the national title vacated by Korean teener Kim Chang Hoi. Kim failed to qualify for the finals in three tries.

With Summit Point being a relatively new course, Ocampo said that it will all boil down to who makes the right plays and handles the unpredictable conditions of the course well enough.

Philippine Airlines is the official carrier of the event supported by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Highlights of the finals will be aired on Sportsplus Channel.

National player Anya Tanpinco is the favorite in ladies Class A play along with Crystal Superal, Beverly Mendoza, Sam Cebrero and Marian Woo.

The finalists: Men's Division—Championship: Boyet Saragosa, Don Erwin Vinluan, Michael Bibat, Tonton Asistio, Jong Laput; **Class A:** Rodel Mangulabnan, Clifford Celdran, Shean Bedi, Park Sang-ho, Gary Sales; **Class B:** Song Mol Young, Young Byoung Ho, Ranie Carlos, Chito Servida, Bill Yoon; **Class C:** Pepe Mendoza, Roger Tan, Sung Woo Ahn, Emil Alviar III, Rusty Ramirez; **Class D:** Emmanuel Santiago, Sonny Chol, Armando Papa, Lee Dong Hyun, Jose Enriquez; **Ladies Division: Class A:** Sam Cebrero, Marian Woo, Anya Tanpinco, Crystal Superal, Beverly Mendoza; **Class B:** Lyn Mangulabnan, Marian Woo, Joy Sevilla, Gilda Medestomas, Tess Staub; **Class C:** Jocelyn Catan, Gloria See, Dulce Arriola, Elizabeth Salazar, Chi Aguas

Manila's Gem starts Triple Crown chase

THE RACE tO THIS YEAR'S TRIPE CROWN STARTS today for nine classy 3-year-olds as they vie in the 1st leg of the "Road to the Triple Crown" Stakes (G2) at the Santa Ana Park. Heading the chase for the P1-million stakes race sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) is Manila's Gem, last year's back-to-back juvenile stakes winner who returns to the track after a two-month layoff. The colt, owned and bred by businessman Raymund Puyat, will face stiff opposition from stable mate Golden Number owned by Raymund's brother David Puyat. Manila's Gem and Golden Number are trained by Donato Sordan. Other challengers are Eric Tagle's Karma, Ed Moreno's King Dominion, Joe Arceo's Manila's Smile, Albert Trinidad's Maximum Exposure, Nap Chua's Million Dollar, Leonora Pasion's Rivendel and Hermie Esguerra's Sound of Silence. Winner of the race is set to receive P600,000. Speed Advantage topped last year's 1st leg 4th.

Martin-Azor leads Kimoni winners

REM MARTIN AND JULIUS AZOR BUCKED the homecourt advantage of local bets Jainor Dizon and Francis Santiago to top Level 1 of men's doubles play in the first leg of the Kimoni Badminton Tour 2006 at the Smash Power Badminton Center in San Fernando Pampanga.

Playing out of Malabon, Martin and Azor easily won the first set, 15-9, but sweated it out in the second (17-16) over Dizon-Santiago.

In the top level of ladies' division, the tandem of Ann Mendiola and Maya Nunag scored a victory for Pampanga when they crushed Jen Narciso and Maria Joy Marcelino, 15-7, 15-7.

Close to 500 players saw action in the kick-off leg of the Kimoni Tour which will visit key cities around the country with the level winners of each leg advancing to the Kimoni Battle of the Champions this July at the Market! Market! Activity Center at The Fort.

Lubao natives Michael Carlos and Apple Rodriguez beating the Manila pair of Nitrie Espiritu-Joy Jocson, 15-12, 15-6, in the mixed level event.

Randolph Balatbat and Lourdes Gaspar ruled the Juniors' 15 years old and below event while Stanley Macaspac-Sheila Pascual topped the Juniors' 16 to 20 years old.

Nets spoil Francis' Knicks debut; Hawks soar

NEW YORK—RICHARD JEFFERSON scored 27 points and Vince Carter added 26 to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 94-90 victory over the woeful New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Jefferson also had eight rebounds and six assists as the Nets won their fourth straight game and eighth in their last 10.

New Jersey (31-23) also got 23 points from Nenad Krstic, who went 11-for-11 from the field for the Nets, who dominated early and then survived a late New York rally attempt in the fourth quarter.

The game marked the Knicks debut of Steve Francis, who was acquired in a three-player deal with the Orlando Magic on Wednesday.

The point guard received a warm welcome from the crowd when he was introduced, but the mood changed quickly after the Nets scored the game's first 10 points.

New Jersey led, 20-4, at one point in the first quarter and never trailed in the game, leading by nine points at the half and by 18 after three quarters.

That lead swelled to 21 points in the final quarter, drawing boos from the Garden crowd, before the Knicks outscored the Nets 35-21 in the fourth quarter in an attempt to mount a rally.

Coach Larry Brown's club lost its second straight and 18th of 20, slipping to 15-39, with Francis scoring the game's final points on a three-pointer at the buzzer.

New York has the second worst record in the NBA, ahead of only Charlotte.

Channing Frye led the Knicks with 20 points and had eight rebounds.

Francis had 16 points in 33 minutes in his first game in a New York uniform.

In Indianapolis, Joe Johnson matched his career high with 40 points and added 13 assists as the Atlanta Hawks upset the Indiana Pacers, 117-112, in overtime.

Peja Stojakovic led Indiana with a season-high 34 points.

In Cleveland, Gilbert Arenas scored 26 points as the Washington Wizards got by the Cavaliers, 102-94.

LeBron James led Cleveland with 25, but was 0-for-8 from the field in the second half.

In Memphis, Tim Duncan had 19 points and hauled down 16 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs survived a late rally attempt to edge the Grizzlies, 83-80.

In Minneapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points, including the winning three-point shot in overtime, as the Denver Nuggets edged the slumping Minnesota Timberwolves, 102-101. *Reuters*

WINTER OLYMPICS

Everybody finds a reason to party

TURIN, ITALY—JULIA MANCUSO'S giant slalom gold medal sparked celebrations for Americans and Italians. And 50-year-old Russ Howard helped perk up Canada's post-hockey mood by winning a long-awaited Olympic men's triumph in curling—the country's No. 2 sport.

Austria's biathlon and cross-country teams also had some reason to be buoyant Friday, with all 10 athletes under the scope returning negatives to out-of-competition doping tests from last weekend's unprecedented raids by Italian police. But that issue is far from over at the Winter Games.

The International Olympic Committee said it will press ahead with a far-reaching probe based on evidence seized at the lodgings of Austrian athletes and staff by police under Italy's strict anti-doping laws.

"The IOC takes this affair very seriously and is determined to do everything in its power to bring full clarity to what has happened," IOC spokesperson Giselle Davies said. "We must look at the bigger picture."

Disgraced coach Walter Mayer, whose presence in Turin sparked the anti-doping raids, is still in a psychiatric ward in Austria.

Canada beat Finland, 10-4, in eight ends to win the men's curling gold medal, making Howard the oldest gold medalist ever at the Winter Olympics.

The men's hockey finalists were decided—Nordic neighbors Finland and Sweden will play for the title Sunday. Sweden beat world champion Czech Republic, 7-3, and Finland blanked Russia, 4-0.

There were some positives in cross country—positive stories that is.

In the final event of the women's program, super mom Katerina Neumannova won the Czech Republic's first gold medal of the games, edging favorite Julija Tchepalova of Russia to win the 30-kilometer mass start race in 1 hour, 22 minutes, 25.4 seconds. *AP*

Stars fade in Match Play

WOODS: Crucial birdie putt flubbed in final hole. AP

MICKELSON: Never even had the lead. AP

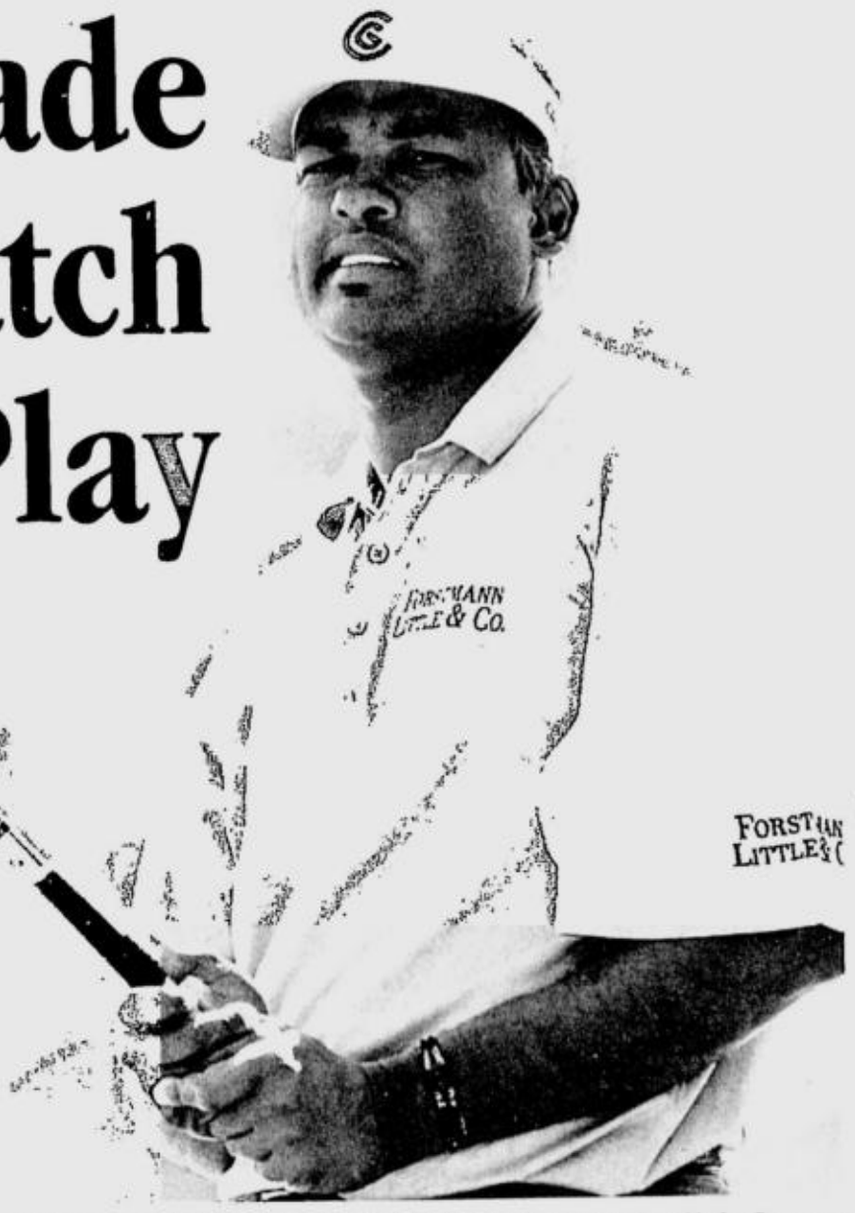
CARLSBAD, California—Tiger Woods missed a 12-foot birdie putt on the final hole for Chad Campbell to win, 1-up, and reach the Match Play Championship quarterfinals on a vicious day Friday for some of golf's biggest names.

Beside Woods, second-seeded Vijay Singh, hometown favorite Phil Mickelson and defending champion David Toms were bundled out in the third round at La Costa Resort.

Right when it looked as though the top seeds were on a collision course in the Championship, the fickle tournament was left with Retief Goosen (No. 3) as the lone player from the top 10 seeds.

Singh still doesn't know what it's like to play on the weekend at La Costa after missing a good chance to win on the 18th and losing to Padraig Harrington in 19 holes.

Mickelson, the No. 5 seed, never led against David Howell of England and didn't stand much of a chance with Howell twice making long birdie putts, closing out Lefty, 3 and 1.



VIJAY Singh still doesn't know what it's like to play the weekend in La Costa. AFP

Toms, the No. 8, lost his magic at La Costa and saw his eight-match winning streak end by going down to US Ryder Cup captain Tom Lehman, 4 and 3.

Chris DiMarco was the No. 7 seed and said he doubted there were many players at La Costa with his toughness. What he discovered was that match play starts with birdies, and he only made one in a 3-and-2 loss to Davis Love III.

Goosen, the No. 3 seed, never trailed in beating Luke Donald, 1-up.

Campbell was certain he was headed into overtime while standing to the side of the 18th green as Woods crouched to study the 12-foot birdie putt.

Campbell expected the putt to drop like so many others.

"Didn't y'all?" Campbell said. "I was getting ready to go to No. 1, to be honest with you." *AP*

Sharapova books Dubai final ticket

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES—Maria Sharapova ousted defending champion Lindsay Davenport, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3, on Friday to reach the final of the Dubai Women's Open against Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Henin-Hardenne will play for her third Dubai title in four years after beating Svetlana Kuznetsova, 6-2, 7-5, on a day when all the semifinalists had to play twice, and endured another lengthy rain delay.

Rain washed out the quarterfinals the day before.

Third-seeded Sharapova earlier accounted for Martina Hingis, 6-3, 6-4, paying back the Swiss wild card and inaugural Dubai champion for her defeat in the Tokyo semifinals at the start of the month.

In the semis, second-seeded Davenport blazed past Sharapova to lead, 4-0, and had two more breaks before wrapping up the first set.

A jolted Sharapova raced through the second set, earning three breaks with incredible forehand and backhand winners. In the deciding set, Sharapova broke for 5-3 and served out to make the Dubai final on debut.

"I played two players of completely different styles today and that took some time adjusting," said the 18-year-old Russian, who spent the free time between her two matches catching up on her chemistry lessons.

Sharapova will play for her 11th career title, and first since June, but she's lost her last three matches to Henin-Hardenne, including in last month's Australian Open.

Henin-Hardenne's appearance this week was her first on tour since she retired in the Australian Open final against Amelie Mauresmo with severe stomach pain from anti-inflammatories for a shoulder injury. She hasn't dropped a set in three matches, to extend her record in Dubai to 11-0. *AP*

Golden Wheel Awards slated Tuesday

THE COUNTRY'S BEST MOTORSPORTS heroes will be feted during the third annual Golden Wheel Awards set Feb. 28 at the Airport Casino Filipino.

The affair is being organized by Golden Wheel Award Foundation chair Johnny Tan to pay tribute to the achievers in various disciplines of motorsports like motocross, road racing, rally, rallycross, drag racing, slalom, 4x4 off-road, touring car, karting and Asian Formula 3.

The Golden Wheel Driver of the Year awardee will be chosen from among the different motorsports champions during the gala night sponsored by Casino Filipino, Yokohama, Pilipinas Shell, Denso and San Miguel Corp.

"We are proud that the Golden Wheel Awards has served as an inspiration for our Filipino drivers to reach greater heights, not just in local competition but also on the international racing scene," Tan said. "We're hoping to see our champion drivers expand their horizons to include top-level events such as A1 and other races in Europe."

The Awards committee is still sifting information on the candidates and will reveal the Driver of the Year awardee only during the Golden Wheel Awards Night.

Among the strong contenders this year are Asian motocross runner-up Glenn Aguilar, Asian Formula 3 driver Tyson Sy and Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner.

Aguilar again bagged the Namssa Rider of the Year. While he lost last year's FIM-UAM Asian motocross crown, he topped the championship round and emerged the best Filipino finisher by winding up fourth overall.

Bumgarner, 16, bagged the Asian karting crown for the third straight year. Last year, she was the lone choice as Driver of the Year.

Aguilar shines in Camel moto

TALISAY CITY—Glenn Aguilar swept the pro 125 category as expected, but James Robinson of New Zealand stole the spotlight in the pro open class in the Camel Supercross International Championship Series 2006 at the RBL Stadium here over the weekend. Aguilar lived up to his billing as the country's winningest supercross rider, putting up another big show as he outduelled veteran Jovie Saulog and Kenneth San Andres in the first heat and Robinson and Saulog in the second to capture top honors in the pro 125 class of the annual series sponsored by Camel. But Robinson, one of the emerging supercross stars in the region, prevented a double celebration by the Filipino camp when he edged Aguilar, the former Asian champion, in the pro open category. Robinson and Aguilar both finished with 47 points, but the New Zealander clinched top honors by winning the more important afternoon heat.

MTV queen hits more than just high notes

VIKTORIA: It compliments my singing, dancing.

By Jasmine W. Payo

SULTRY SINGER VIKTORIA AGBAYANI HAS been hitting more than just the high notes.

As the latest member of the muay thai national team, she has been kicking and punching her way to prominence in an entirely new stage.

But there has been no major adjustment for the 5-foot-5 recording artist.

"In a way, it's the same as showbiz," said Agbayani, who was once tagged MTV queen for pioneering local music videos in the 1990s. "I don't think you'll last in showbiz if you don't have the focus and the discipline."

Since learning muay thai in 1998, Agbayani shares how she managed to bring sports and entertainment together.

"I was introduced to muay thai by someone from showbiz," she shared. "It's complimentary to my performing because I need to be in shape. I do dance music, I do high-energy shows and I need the stamina. I used to run, but I also thought I want to learn self-defense. I want to learn a skill while burning calories and fat. So this is what I did."

But little did she know that her regular work out had given her a knockout form.

"I was surprised when they invited me to the RP Team last year," Agbayani said "The coach had been watching every time I go to the gym. He saw my form."

"I was hesitant because they'd been training for months (for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games)," she added. "I was the last recruit. I only had three and a half months to train."

But as it turned out, Agbayani had nothing to worry about. She took center stage last December when she won the gold medal in the Wai Kru event of muay thai in the regional meet.

"It was my first competition ever," she said. "It was something I didn't plan."

Wai Kru is the artistic event of muay thai which involves a series of gestures and movements. It's performed before the competitive boxing event.

Agbayani has been training for both events. Although Wai Kru looks easier, she insists that it also demands a great deal of athleticism.

"You need strength, grace and balance," she explained. "There are movements where you're just standing on one leg and doing squats. So you're like carrying your body weight on one leg and you're bouncing. It's very difficult. A few minutes of that you'll get tired."

Agbayani even plans to extend the balancing act in her two careers.

'Bad Boy' leads Clark duathlon contestants

DEFENDING CHAMPION RYAN "Bad Boy" Mendoza leads a big field of duathletes in the first leg of the CMG Duathlon series on Sunday at the Clark Expo inside Clarkfield, Pampanga.

National champion Mendoza, who has been undefeated in the last three years in all major duathlon races in the country, will be challenged by Jeffrey Valdez, Augusto Benedicto and Joseph Millanes while in the distaff side, reigning national women's champion Rizzo Tangan will be up against comebacking Ging Primne from Baguio.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, who carried the country's colors in the World Duathlon Championship in Australia last year, has also confirmed her participation in the age-group competitions of the event.

"We expect all the country's top duathletes to join because this race will practically determine the composition of our national team to the Asian Duathlon Championship to be hosted by the Clark Development Corp. here inside Clark," said local race organizer Melvin Fausto of the Clark Multi-sports Group.

Fausto is looking at holding the two other legs in the CMG series in Tarlac, and either Angeles City or San Fernando, Pampanga, with the series to culminate in the National Duathlon Championship inside Clark later this year.

The race, which will be a 5K run—30K bike—5K run event, is expected to attract close to 100 duathletes coming from the adjoining provinces in Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Baguio and Metro Manila.

THE NEON green-clad Negrenses, who defeated North Cotabato Thursday, advance to the finals against defending champion National Capital Region today. ARNOLD ALMACEN/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

Teen star gets back at old foe

Negros, NCR arrange PFF title showdown

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAROTAC NUEVO—TEENAGE midfielder Jason Panhay of Negros hated the loss to Iloilo in the National Under-19 semifinals last year so much that he couldn't wait to get back at an Iloilo squad.

So when he got his chance yesterday in an even more prestigious tournament, Panhay made the most out of it, leading Negros Occidental to a 2-1 win over its rival before a hostile crowd at the Barotac pitch.

The win gave the Negrenses the first finals berth in the PFF-National Men's Open championships.

Defending titlist National Capital Region beat North Cotabato, 4-2, in penalties and will face Negros for the title at 2 p.m. today. The two teams were tied, 1-1, at regulation.

"I had always wanted to beat any team from Iloilo after the under-19 tournament [because] we knew we could have won that game," said Panhay, the youngest member of the Negros squad at 19.

Panhay played a crucial role for Negros in the under-19 tourney, where it saw its bid ended by Iloilo, 2-1, also in the semis in Bago City.

But for Panhay, winning in this football-crazy town made it more special.

"We lost at home so it's also special that we won in their home field," said Panhay who struck in the 5th minute, blasting a curling free kick 20 yards from the left flank that silenced the crowd.

He padded Negros' lead to 2-0 with a brilliant individual effort in the 28th minute, before Ruben Doctora gave Iloilo a ray of hope with a goal from close range in the 38th.

"But our defense held its ground in the second half," Negros coach Freddie Lazarito said, crediting the sterling performances of defenders Joel Ballo-Allo and Ziggy Tonog.

Lazarito is hoping to steer Negros to its first national crown after 2002 in this tournament organized by the Iloilo Football Association in cooperation with Gov. Neil Tupas and Mayor Jerry Treñas and sponsored by Red Ribbon Bakeshop, 2Go and Petron.

Juggernaut scores easy victory

UNDEFEATED FILLY JUGGERNAUT UNDERSCORED HER STATUS AS TOP triple Crown prospect with a decisive victory in the P1-million PCSO Freedom Cup Race yesterday at the Santa Ana Park. The overwhelming favorite and last year's undisputed champion 2-year-old made an impressive debut as a 3-year-old by outclassing Kaiphia, Majestic Queen and Mika's Dream, who finished behind her in that order. The win was Juggernaut's sixth in as many starts. With the P600,000 prize, she boosted her total career winnings past the P2.8-million mark. The celebrated daughter of Mr. Suave (US) out of Plate Lady covered the 1,500-meter race in 1:35 flat.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfare property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel 1-East Side** with an approximate area of 718,313 square meters with a value of **Php19,000** per square meter as the minimum bid price.

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon **March 24, 2006** and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said **Parcel 1** shall be ready for distribution on **February 20, 2006** at a non-refundable cost of Php 5,000 00 for each Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from Director M. Nicomedes J. Castillo, Asset Management Group at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-9145 or tel. no 931-8101 loc. 142.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. on **March 24, 2006**, at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference

Deadline for submission of bids is 2:00 p.m. on **May 19, 2006**. Immediately thereafter or at 2:01 p.m., the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman Quezon City

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERWIN L. TIAMSON
DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

A2-1

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Rey Malonzo 'willing to serve' as OMB chief

MANZANO

MALONZO

By Nini Valera

EDU MANZANO, CHAIR OF the Optical Media Board, has tenure of office until December this year.

But talk of replacing him from the anti-piracy post that he has occupied since 2004 began circulating after his recent brush with Leo Martinez, director general of the Film Academy of the Philippines, over the allocation of funds from the profits of the Metro Manila Film Festival last year.

The name of former Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo has surfaced in this buzz as Manzano's possible replacement. Martinez is said to have initiated the move to replace Manzano.

Martinez has denied this, and Manzano has shrugged off the rumor, saying it has been going around for six months now.

"President [Macapagal] Arroyo congratulated me last Monday because the Philippines has been taken off the priority watch list of the US trade representatives as a piracy hot spot—the first time in five years," Manzano related. Only Ms Arroyo has the right to replace him, he said (the OMB chief is appointed by the President). "I serve at her pleasure."

In a phone interview with INQUIRER on Thursday, Manzano noted that he was working not only for the movie industry but also for the software and product licensing businesses. "The movie industry is only a part of the scope of my job as OMB chair."

Manzano had just arrived from Cebu City where he conducted a bust against a local pirate of fake video products.

Confirmation

Malonzo confirmed to INQUIRER, also last Thursday, that some sectors in the film industry are working to have him installed as OMB chair. He did not elaborate. "[But] I'm willing to serve if I'm appointed," he said.

Like the President, Malonzo and Manzano are members of the Lakas Party. Manzano's predecessor in the anti-piracy board was Sen. Bong Revilla, also a member of Lakas.

Martinez denied that he was batting for Malonzo to replace Manzano. "I did not make any [such] recommendation to the President," he told INQUIRER on Thursday.

Martinez said an ABS-CBN crew spotted him talking to Malonzo at the Manila Hotel on Monday. "We just exchanged pleasantries and didn't talk about the OMB."

Fil-Am in US dance finals /A3

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■ 'Idol's' first cuts of the season /A4-1

MTRCB: 'South Park' offensive

By Marinel R. Cruz

CABLE DISTRIBUTOR SOLAR Entertainment has discontinued the airing of the animated series "South Park" on Jack TV after the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board complained of the program's "offensive nature."

In a press statement dated Feb. 23, MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia announced that Solar Entertainment "voluntarily agreed to desist from airing the cartoon until further notice."

Laguardia ordered the review of the program's episodes from Jan. 28 to Feb. 18 after the Board received calls and text messages from viewers saying "South Park" offended the sensibilities of Roman Catholics.

Blasphemy

Laguardia said she received a text message complaining that the show "blasphemed Jesus Christ by calling Him a nitwit." She said the texter pointed out "vulgar disrespect for the Blessed Virgin Mary."

"South Park," follows the misadventures of four foul-mouthed third graders—Stan, Kyle, Kenny and Cartman. The show is set in the town of South Park in Colorado. It is based on the short film by Trey Parker and Matt Stone titled, "The Spirit of Christmas."

Laguardia said an adjudication board is scheduled to meet with Solar Entertainment on March 3 to discuss the issue. The adjudication board is comprised of Orlando Olgado, Alfred Yuson and lawyer Paulino Cases.

"We've not reviewed all the episodes, but I saw one show where Jesus was boxing with the Devil. I personally think the show violated MTRCB rules and regulations, but it's best to wait for the official decision of the board," Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday.

Laguardia also asked concerned viewers to have all their future complaints duly notarized.

They're getting smaller

By Clarissa Batino

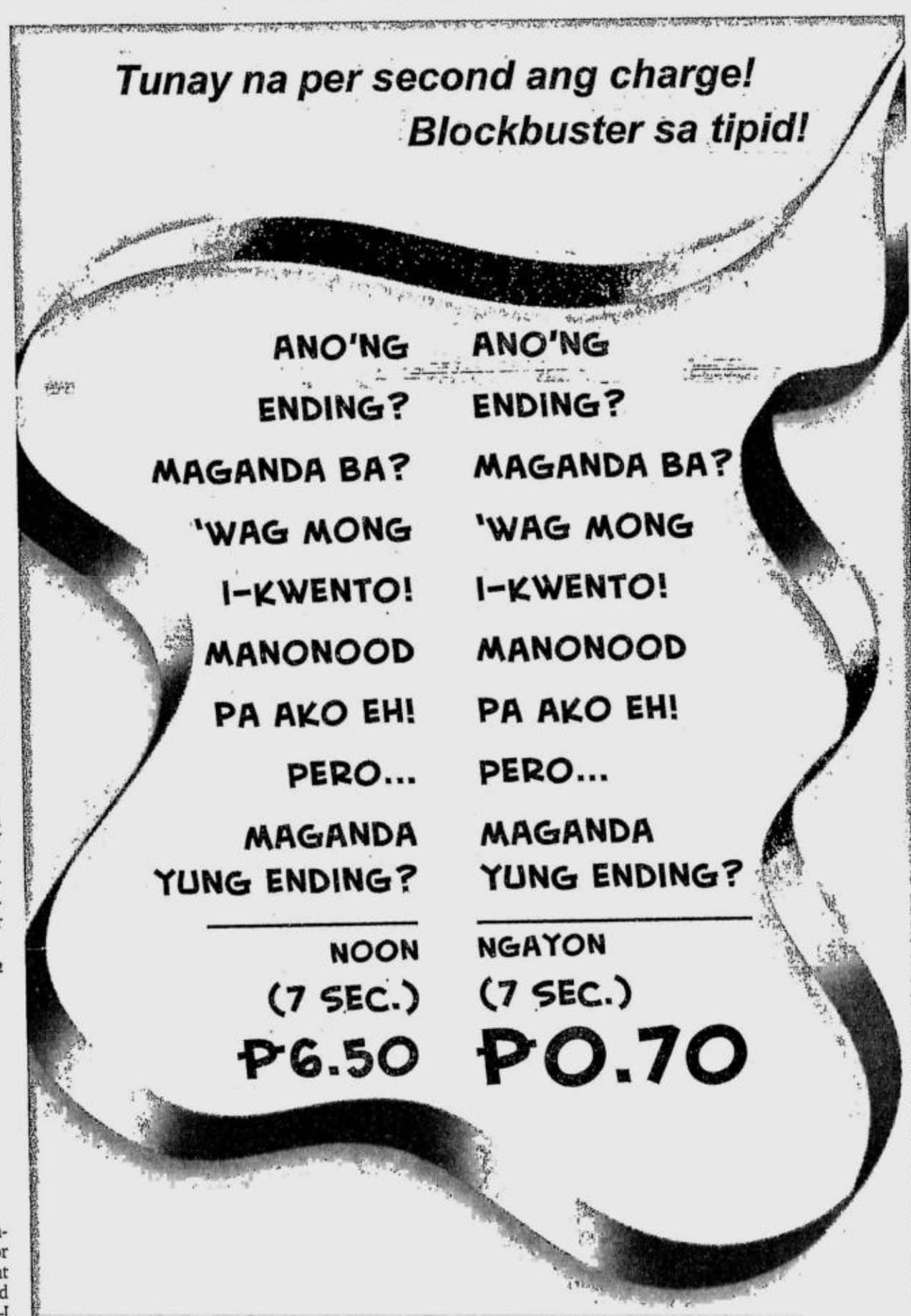
EVERYTHING SEEMS to have gone mini—as small as anything that could go into the mobile phone.

Music videos paved the way. Now, soap operas and short films are joining the bandwagon, especially with the coming of the third-generation, or 3G, phone services.

Video channel MTV Philippines and Infocom Technologies Inc., a unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., have teamed up to create enhanced music television content that can be played through the Internet or via cell phones.

Infocom's interactive content division called CUBE and MTV Philippines are creating local MTV-branded mobile imaging, infotext services for

THEY'RE/ A2-2



Joey and Sharon bat for positive TV

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

"WE DON'T WANT TO FOSTER A CULTURE of mendicancy," said filmmaker Jose Javier Reyes, creative consultant of "Sharon," the new Sunday primetime show of Sharon Cuneta on ABS-CBN.

"Sharon and I agreed we both wanted a show that's Pinoy, life-affirming and interactive," Joey Reyes said.

They started conceptualizing the program a year ago, he said.

"Long before the Ultra tragedy, we already wanted a show that was positive without being condescending and unjustly generous."

ABS-CBN is reportedly studying the possibility of bringing back "Wowowee," whose anniversary edition ended in a stampede that killed 71 people and hurt scores of others.

Media, Reyes said, has been so "negative" of late.

He bewailed how TV shows had focused on "the raging word war between Edu Manzano and Leo Martinez and ignored the three awards of the indie film 'Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros' in Berlin."

Reyes said, "In light of the 'Wowowee' stampede and Leyte landslide, there's a need for more positive shows. After what ABS-CBN went through in the past month, the network should be more courageous and try out new things—I don't mean shows that serve as panacea."

> Award-winning director bewails 'culture of mendicancy,' saying viewers should instead be told they should help themselves

Joey and Sharon are not so keen on doleouts; they'd rather encourage the values of hard work and initiative.

"We'd like to tell the viewers that no one can help them but themselves," he said. "They shouldn't depend on government, charity organizations... or game shows."

Hard sell

Such a concept might be a tough sell for the fickle audience, he admitted. "It's a big gamble. I can only hope viewers will support us.

But how supportive is the network?

"They have no choice; it's Sharon," he quipped. "If anyone could be the face of positive

JOEY/ A2-2

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 SYRIANA • THX
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 MURDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

6 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

7 THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 CLOSE TO YOU
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 AEON FLUX
1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00

10 PINK PANTHER
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

2 MURDER
12:35 3:00 5:20 7:40 9:50

3 CLOSE TO YOU
11:30 1:35 3:40 5:45 7:50 10:00

4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 SYRIANA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8189 • 682-8198

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

2 SYRIANA
1:10 3:40 6:10 9:00

3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
11:55 2:55 5:55 9:00

4 AEON FLUX
11:50 1:40 3:30 5:20 7:10 9:00

5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05

7 CLOSE TO YOU
11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15

8 MGA BATANG BANGKETA
1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 MURDER
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575 PIONEER 687-5378

1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 SYRIANA
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

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2 BLOODRAYNE
3 GOAL
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 CLOSE TO YOU

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 GOAL
3 MUNICH
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 FIREWALL

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332 ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
2 NEW WORLD
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 SAW 2
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 PINK PANTHER

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1 NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
4 AEON FLUX
5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

1 GOAL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 BLOODRAYNE
6 NEW WORLD

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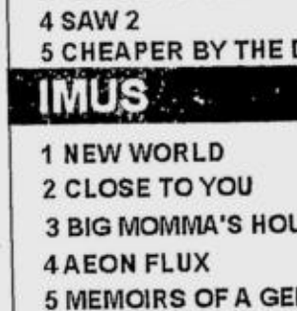
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 PINK PANTHER
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FUN with DICK and JANE
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 SAW 2

1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
6 MUNICH



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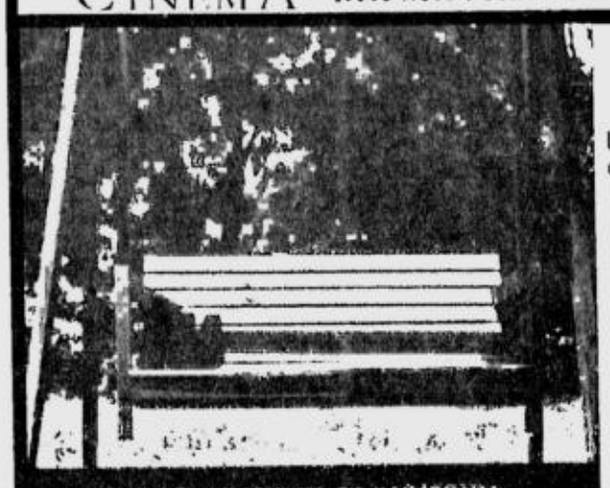

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Laugh your heart out with the story of a guy named Francis on how he surprised the people around him

Starring
Epy Quizon, Christopher De Leon, Paolo Contis, Rico Blanco, Tanya Garcia and Angel Aquino

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MTRCB Rating: PG-13 Distributed by Unitel Entertainment

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FEARLESS
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From February 22 to March 14
Actual props and costumes used in the movie are now on display at
SM City Manila Cinema lobby
From February 22 to March 14

OPENS MARCH 1

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THE PODIUM 633-8978
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:50 FS / 12:15 MF / 03:00 / 05:45
08:10 LFS / 08:40 LMF / 11:05 END
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
11:50 FS / 12:15 MF / 02:25 / 04:35 / 06:45
08:25 LFS / 09:00 LMF / 10:40 END
MEGAMALL
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

CEBU (032) 231-3876
FIREWALL
11:20FS / 11:30 MF / 01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:15 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:20 END
MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:00FS / 11:10 MF / 01:45 / 04:20 / 06:55
09:20 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:00 END
AEON FLUX
10:20FS / 10:30 MF / 12:20 / 02:10 / 04:40 / 8:50
07:40 / 09:15 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:05 END
MANILA
AEON FLUX
11:00 FS / 12:45 MF / 02:30 / 04:15 / 06:00
07:45 / 09:15 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:00 END

movietime

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 RESERVED
5 FIREWALL
6 SYRIANA
7 AEON FLUX
8 PINK PANTHER
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
12 UNDERWORLD 2

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
5 RESERVED
6 PINK PANTHER
7 AEON FLUX
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 SYRIANA
10 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 SAW 2
2 PINK PANTHER
3 FIREWALL
4 AEON FLUX
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
7 FINAL DESTINATION 3
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
10 FIREWALL
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 AEON FLUX
6 SYRIANA
7 FIREWALL
8 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
9 PINK PANTHER
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 AEON FLUX
4 RESERVED
5 PINK PANTHER
6 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
7 SYRIANA
8 FINAL DESTINATION 3

SM CITY MANILA
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 FIREWALL
3 SAW 2
4 PINK PANTHER
5 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
6 AEON FLUX
7 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE
8 NEW WORLD
9 CLOSE TO YOU
10 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
11 FIREWALL
12 SYRIANA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 FINAL DESTINATION 3
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4 SYRIANA
5 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
6 CLOSE TO YOU

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 BLOODRAYNE
4 PINK PANTHER
5 NEW WORLD
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FIREWALL
2 PINK PANTHER
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
5 AEON FLUX
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
8 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 NEW WORLD
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 THE MAID
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 GOAL
2 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 BLOODRAYNE

SM CITY LUCENA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 WHO'S YOUR DADY
4 WALK THE LINE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 AEON FLUX
2 PINK PANTHER
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY MARILAO
1 FIREWALL
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
4 NEW WORLD

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FIREWALL
2 NEW WORLD
3 GOAL
4 CLOSE TO YOU

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 FIREWALL
2 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
3 AEON FLUX
4 RUMOR HAS IT
5 PROOF
6 BLOODRAYNE
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 RESERVED
3 UNDERWORLD 2
4 MUNICH
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
7 RESERVED
8 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY DAVAO
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 PINK PANTHER
4 CLOSE TO YOU
5 MUNICH
6 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
4 SAW 2

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ON "LITTLE BIG STAR": LAS
the judges, **Gerard Salonga**
perspicacious than his fello
tented themselves with pra
singers for their fine voice
further and commented o
tants' *choice* of songs.

He observed that the so
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the young performers; a
was discomfiting.

Later on the same show,
to again remind the young
parents!): *"Mag-ingat sa p*

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should. After all, they cho
they must heed his wise co

Other off-putting aspe
Star" include the youn
grown-up look in terms o
earrings and accessories.

The young singers also
manner, making their voi

Joey and bat for p

From page A2-1

TV, it's Sharon. No one in government can do that!"

For her part, Sharon explained that she aims to "inspire and uplift TV, and hopefully cancel out all negativity."

Two decades on air, and she has witnessed the transformation of the TV landscape.

"Scandalous shows and Asianovelas are the rage now," she noted. "Our goal is to emulate Oprah Winfrey's show."

For the spirit

In other words, she said, hers will be a show for the spirit. "Right before the 'Wowowee' tragedy, I told my bosses Gabby Lopez and Charo Santos-Concio: 'With all due respect, please don't give me a show just for

They're ..

MTV and text-initiated search engine.

The project also enables mobile promos, provides text-to-television services and creates ring back tones, true tones and other content, said Infocom.

"It's a whole new level of experience for MTV fans," said Infocom president CEO Edgardo Bautista in a statement. "MTV is becoming more accessible and exciting because of new content that will be made available."

Video wall

CUBE, according to Infocom, also allows MTV Philippines to use its iTV (interactive television) chat facilities on the Internet.

Infocom said CUBE will re-air MTV programs and show them on the video wall section of CUBE iTV Channel while viewers can chat with other viewers regarding the aired content.

With the possible simulcasts, MTV may include CUBE iTV in their advertising packages as an additional channel that it can sell to advertisers.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Juror concerned about young singers' choice of songs

T FEB. 11, ONE OF
proved to be more
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but Salonga went
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Salonga felt it wise
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talents' overly
makeup, clothes,

ing in too adult a
es big and growly,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

and hitting high notes in the predictable *"birit"* style associated with "diva-hood" in these parts.

All of these elements distract, and distract from the fact that this is a *kiddie* singing contest. Instead of pointing its young talents in the right direction, the show makes them acquire bad performing habits and attitudes. This unhealthy trend should stop.

All we need to do is to look at the kiddie division of the "Star Search" talents search on US television (telecast here on the ETC channel).

The child talents there are made to sing songs appropriate to their tender ages, and nobody is compelled to perform like pint-sized **Madonna** or **Whitney Houston**. Why should we be less responsible here?

(P.S.: Pinoy kids have done well on "Star Search." Many years ago, **Banig Roberto** scored major points on the show. Recently, little **Mark Meija** figured as one of the program's three final contenders for the top prize of $100,000. Unfortunately, he landed only in third place.

But, just a weeks later, another young Fil-Am singer named **Maridel** trounced the competition and ended up as the weekly winner.)

'Hostel'

FANS of film director **Quentin Trantino**, rejoice. The eccentric maker of "kick-ass" action-dramas now uncovers man's darkest fantasies in the horror-thriller, "Hostel." Unfortunately, he isn't megging the movie, and is only one of its producers. Still, even a smidgen of Tarantino goes a long way with his fans, so the film's release in the United States as "Quentin Tarantino Presents Hostel" helped make it a hit.

The film, which is about young people lured into an Eastern European hostel that doubles as a torture chamber, is directed by **Eli Roth**, whose 2002 feature debut, "Cabin Fever," grossed $100M in ticket and DVD sales on a $1.5M budget.

'Maharot'

KAMIKAZEE'S new album, "Maharot," kicks off with "Narda" as carrier single. Its music video directed by **Ace Enriquez** recently premiered on MYX and got great feedback.

Other cuts include "Chicksilog," "Shoot Dat Bol," "Discoskwela," "Ambisyoso," and "K.K.K." Kamikazee bandmates are **Allan Burdeos, Jason Astete, Led Tuyay, Jomal Linao** and **Jay Contreras**.

SHARON Cuneta emulates Oprah Winfrey.

Sharon positive TV

the sake of it. I need for you to understand my goals and I need your full support.'"

The new show premieres tonight on ABS-CBN at 8:45 p.m.

"This may sound dramatic, but it's really from my heart," Sharon said. "I want to enlighten and empower my audience. I hope others follow suit."

It's not all serious stuff, though.

"We have a feature on *ukay-ukay* [flea markets]," she said.

Reyes added: "Her co-hosts Uma Khouny and Jaymee Joaquin did the *ukay-ukay* feature because she obviously can't go to Bambang and Divisoria."

It will be a "fun, unpredictable" show, she said. "For the debut episode I baked 12 carrot cakes for the audience!"

From page A2-1

MTV Philippines Managing Director and VP Jack Madrid said this deal gives MTV additional media platforms to reach out especially to tech-savvy audiences.

"This deal will deliver value to our partners and advertisers who need to communicate their marketing messages," said Madrid in a statement.

"The only way we can do this is to work with a company like Infocom," noted MTV Director of Research and Business Development Jojo Sarte. "With Infocom, we are tapping the strengths of the whole PLDT Group—mobile, Internet and fixed."

CUBE Interactive vice president Jay Adevoso said the partnership reflects the adoption of a content convergence strategy by both companies.

"We are sharing each others' expertise. We would also like to tap the MTV market. We know that MTV and, in particular, music is a very powerful tool for this market," he said. "It's actually a natural partnership."

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6 GOLD (SDDS) BIG MOMMAS HOUSE-2
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4 CLOSE TO YOU

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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2
4 (DTS) FIREWALL

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(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
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2 CLOSE TO YOU

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4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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4 SYRIANA
5 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA

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2 CLOSE TO YOU

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2 UNDERWORLD
3 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

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2 RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) RESERVED
4 (DTS) RESERVED

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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD
4 (DTS) SAW-2

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2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN-2

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2 THE NEW WORLD

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4 (DTS) SAW-2

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1 (DOLBY) SAW-2
2 NAGDADALAGA
3 (DTS) CLOSE TO YOU
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU
5 THE MAN

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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 FIREWALL
4 GOAL

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2 THE NEW WORLD

starmall EDSA-SHAW
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3 BROKE BACK MOUNTAIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
5 CLOSE TO YOU

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3 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
4 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

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2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU

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3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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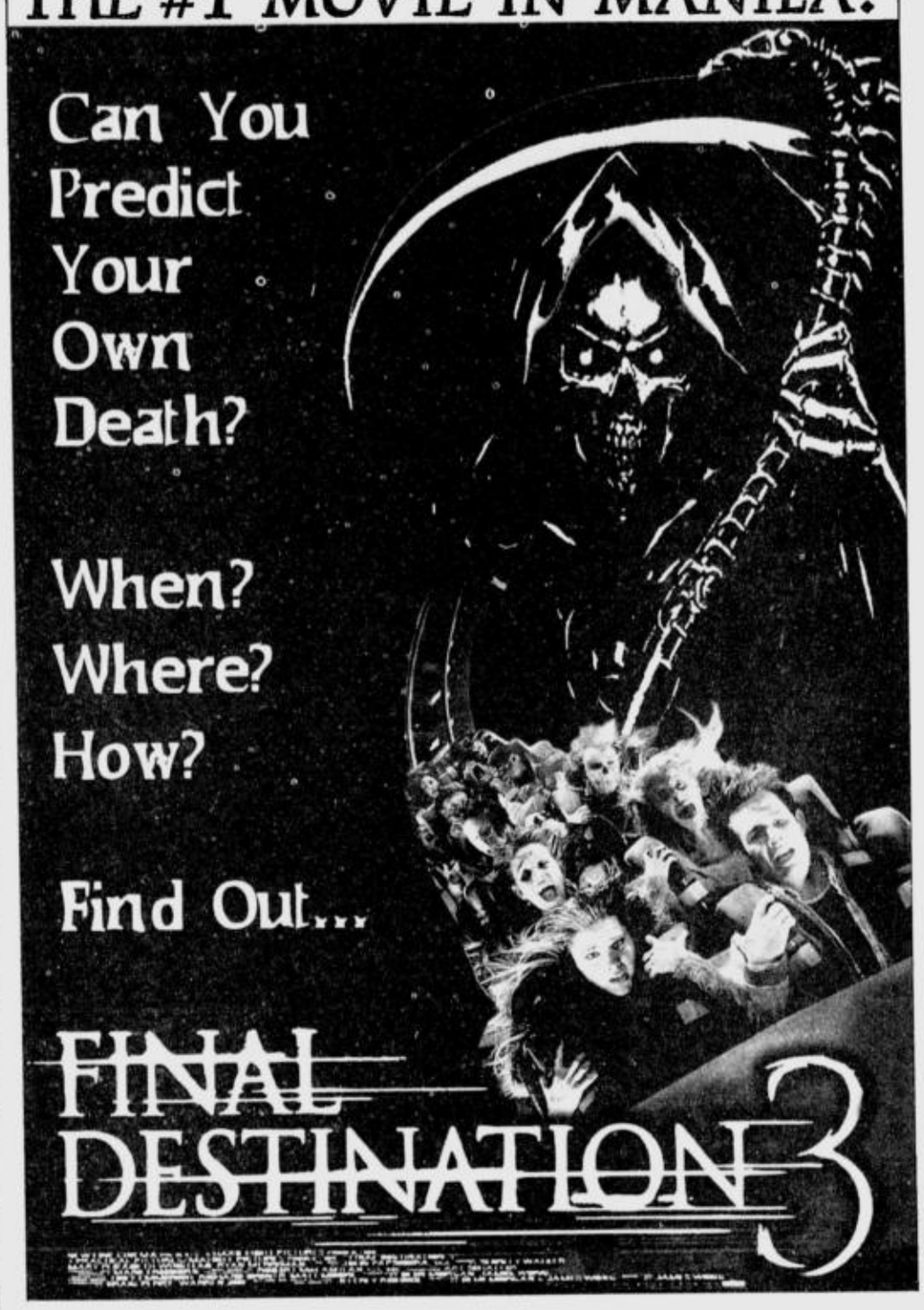

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FOR Fil-Am dancer Cheryl Burke, here with partner Drew Lachey, the "Dancing with the Stars" performance in Disneyland is the most memorable.

Chemistry and a drive to win

It's the day of reckoning for Fil-Am finalist in the popular US TV tilt, 'Dancing with the Stars'

LOS ANGELES—CHERYL BURKE, THE Filipino-American dancing partner of 98 Degrees' **Drew Lachey** in "Dancing with the Stars" which climaxes Sunday night (Monday noon in Manila) may not speak Tagalog but, she quipped, "I can definitely understand it when my Mom starts talking about me."

Mom is **Sherri Bautista Burke**, who came to the US as a nurse in 1977 and now runs three businesses in Daly City, California. The Novo Ecijana is married to Dr. **Robert Wolf** and counts among her family stepdaughter **Mandy Wolf**, Cheryl, and **Nicole Wolf**, who is the youngest daughter.

"My Dad and Mom used to take me to Filipino parties where I learned that a party is not fun without dancing," Cheryl told me via e-mail. "Filipinos are natural dancers. The minute they hear music, they get up and show off their natural rhythm."

Cheryl has the genes of a mother who is an amateur ballroom dancing competitor and a maternal *lola* who zealously taught folk dances as a PE teacher in Nueva Ecija. Cheryl remembered immediately liking ballet at age four, "from day one."

When I asked the New York-based (but Bay Area-raised) ballroom dancing champion if she got a chance to talk with **George Hamilton**, one of the show's contestants, about his dancing days with former First Lady **Imelda Marcos**, she replied in the negative. "George was so focused on **Stacy [Keibler**, one of the finalists]," Cheryl said.

Neither was she able to talk often with her fellow Fil-Am, actress **Tia Carrere**, who was earlier voted off.

Cheryl confessed that she did not know much about Drew or 98 Degrees before they were paired up for the show. Now, after going through hundreds of hours of rehearsals and dancing together all the way to the finals, the two are "close friends for life."

While the pair has wowed the on-set judges and viewers who vote online and by phone with their tango (a perfect 30) and *paso doble*, Cheryl's favorite dance with Drew was the Jive. Many consider wrestler Stacy Keibler and **Tony Dovolani** as Cheryl and Drew's closest rival for the top prize. The other team is football's **Jerry Rice** and **Anna Trabunskaya**.

As we write, Cheryl and Drew scored perfect scores with the judges Thursday evening so they look good as they go into the Sunday finals. Message boards were abuzz with raves about the duo's cowboy dance, especially Cheryl's choreography. Audience votes Thursday will make up 50 percent in the final determination of the winners while the judges' vote on both Thursday and Sunday will count for the other 50 percent.

On its second season, "Dancing with the Stars" proved to have durable appeal. The show, fondly called by its acronym "DWTS" by followers, attracts as many as 20 million viewers each episode and even beats the popular "Survivor" in the ratings game.

Cheryl intends to visit the Philippines soon. "I want to personally thank Filipinos everywhere who voted and supported us," she declared.

How is the Filipino side of you expressed in your dancing?

My musicality and ability to articulate beauty in my dancing—I feel that the Filipino in me makes that come out more naturally.

Did you perform Filipino folk dances in, for example, school shows?

Unfortunately, I never had that opportunity.

What do you enjoy most during visits to the Philippines?

Experiencing the culture and the unmatched Filipino hospitality. I have traveled all over the world to compete and I can proudly say that only Filipinos will offer their own bed to a guest and make him feel comfortable in their homes. I enjoy visiting my cousins and other relatives which, unfortunately, doesn't happen too often.

What is your favorite Filipino food?

I wish I could have *sinigang* right now. I also like *lumpiang* shanghai, *adobo*, *kare-kare*—but no *bagoong*, please.

Did you and Tia Carrere get to talk about your shared Filipino heritage?

Tia is one of my favorites among the celebrity contestants. She is so down to earth and friendly. She is so Filipino in how she always wants to chat with another Filipino.

As a Filipino-American, how challenging is it to succeed in the world of dance, especially in the very competitive field of international ballroom dancing?

I think they consider me as American in the international dance world. In this field, heritage sometimes doesn't matter unless you're Russian. The stereotype Russians are "hungry" in that they really have the drive to do well.

You wrote once that Drew never gets nervous but you do. How does he make you comfortable?

Drew knows when I'm having those jitters and knows how to comfort me. We are very compatible that way.

How have you succeeded in getting him to move his hips the way you want him to? How much of a dance influence is his wife Lea since she is a choreographer, too, and dances with 98 Degrees?

We work on it week by week. Dancing is all about muscle memory. The more you do a certain move, the more it gets memorized by your muscle. While Lea has not done much choreography in a while (she is eight months pregnant), I try and get her opinion every once in a while on what looks good for Drew and me.

Why do you think that you and Drew did very well as a dancing couple?

From Day One, Drew has always wanted to win and has put in all the necessary work. More important, our chemistry on the floor contributes highly to our success.

Has Nick Lachey dropped by to watch you rehearse?

Nick has been in almost every show and has dropped by a couple of times to watch us practice.

What has been your most memorable moment as a team?

Our performance in Disneyland. I was so touched by the overwhelming reception from our fans.

Most fulfilling?

So far, making the finals.

Most frustrating?

Every Saturday morning when I have to come up with choreography to some music (chosen by the producers) that Drew and I are not familiar with.

What's your advice to Filipinos who dream of

CHEMISTRY/ A3-2

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Fearless wife vs frightened wife

LOS ANGELES—A FEARLESS WIFE AND A frightened wife lead the supporting-actress race for the Academy Awards.

Rachel Weisz is the Oscar favorite for "The Constant Gardener," though it's a tough category to call, loaded with a mix of veterans and young faces.

A winner at earlier key Hollywood awards, Weisz faces her strongest challenge from Michelle Williams in "Brokeback Mountain," with Amy Adams of "Junebug," Catherine Keener of "Capote" and Frances McDormand of "North Country" rounding out the field.

Best known for "The Mummy" movies, Weisz has a gift for imbuing characters with sly intelligence, whether in commercial flicks or artsier films. It was the first Oscar nomination for Weisz, who said she wishes co-star Ralph Fiennes could have been honored as well.

WEISZ

WILLIAMS

"It's a supporting role I was playing, and I was supporting him, so it is disappointing he wasn't nominated," said Weisz, who won the Golden

FEARLESS/ A3-2

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Mostly new or 'snubbed' actors on the Oscar list

LOS ANGELES—NEARLY THREE-QUARters of the actors nominated for the 2006 Academy Awards are Hollywood newcomers or hugely popular stars who were previously snubbed by Oscar despite their box office triumphs.

Of the 20 actors competing for the four acting statuettes this year, 14 are first-time nominees while six have previously competed for cinema's highest honors which will be handed out on March 5 in Hollywood.

"There are a lot of new faces at the Oscars this year, many of them people who paid their dues over the years with many roles and many films," Gitsesh Pandya, founder of the movie website Boxoffice-guru.com, told AFP.

Among the new names to win recognition from the 5,800 Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters are Terrence Howard, nominated as Best Actor for "Hustle and Flow," and real newcomer Briton Keira Knightley, Best Actress nominee for "Pride and Prejudice" at the tender age of 20.

Youthful arrivals

Other youthful new arrivals include Amy Adams, 26, nominated as Best Supporting Actress in "Junebug," and Britain's Rachel Weisz, 34, Best Supporting Actress contender for the thriller "The Constant Gardner." Only four of this year's nominees for best leading and best supporting roles—10 actors and 10 actresses in all—already boast Oscars on their mantelpeices.

They are four-time nominees William Hurt, Frances McDormand and British Dame Judi Dench, who won Oscars in

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35, 1997 and 1998 respectively, as well South African star Charlize Theron, o won the Best Actress award in 2004. Two others have earned nominations have never taken home the coveted uette: Joaquin Phoenix, who was a t Supporting Actor nod for 2000's e Gladiator," and "Capote" nominee herine Keener as Best Supporting Ac- ss in 1999's cult favourite "Being John lkovich.".

urrent favorite

This year's Best Actor nominee David athairn, 57, who won his nod for play- newsman Edward R. Murrow in orge Clooney's political drama "Good ht, and Good Luck," has had mainly ondary roles in more than 80 movies r the last 25 years.

The favorite for this year's Best Actor car, "Capote" star Philip Seymour Hoffn, 38, has acted in 40 movies and tele- on shows since 1991, including hits h as 1997's "Boogie Nights," "Punch- nk Love" and the 2004 Oscar winner ld Mountain," but did not get a break- role until "Capote." First-time nomi- s Australian Heath Ledger, Best Actor peful for his role as a gay cowboy in okeback Mountain," and Terrence ward, have churned out scores of vies.

Ledger was first noticed by audiences 2001's light comedy "A Knight's Tale" in Mel Gibson's 2000 movie "The Pa- t," but found himself typecast as a tty boy."

Desperate Housewives" star and best ress nominee Felicity Huffman, 43, has n a Hollywood fixture for years and is even married to a big star, William H. Macy.

But it wasn't until her stunning performance as a transsexual in "Transamerica" that she finally wooed Oscar.

Some of this year's nominees—such as heartthrob George Clooney and "Legally Blonde" actress Reese Witherspoon—rank among Hollywood's highest earning stars but have never won the respect of awards juries.

Witherspoon, 29, is just behind superstar Oscar-winners Julia Roberts and Nicole Kidman on the list of top-earning Tinseltown actresses, but won her first Oscar nod this year for the Johnny Cash biopic "Walk the Line."

Clooney's big-budget mega-hits such as "Ocean's 11," "Ocean's 12" and "Intolerable Cruelty" have raked in almost one billion dollars at the box office since 2001.

Hat trick

But it is only now that he finally attracted Oscar's nod with a hat-trick of nominations as Best Director and Best Original Screenplay for "Good Night" and Best Supporting Actor for "Syriana."

AFP

RACHEL Weisz with Ralph Fiennes in "The Constant Gardener."

Fearless wife...

From page A3-1

Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award for Supporting Actress.

Fellow first-time nominee Williams presents Weisz's main competition. In "Brokeback Mountain," she plays a woman in denial over the gay affair her husband (Heath Ledger) is carrying on with an old ranch-hand partner (Jake Gyllenhaal).

"Brokeback Mountain" heads into the Oscars as the favorite to win Best Picture and Best Director for Ang Lee.

A four-time nominee and Best Actress winner for "Fargo," McDormand is a sturdy, resilient presence in "North Country," in which she plays a miner suffering from a debilitating neurological disorder.

Likewise, Keener, a past nominee for "Being John Malkovich," is a solid embodiment of "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee in "Capote," aiding her lifelong pal Truman Capote in his initial research for the true-crime novel "In Cold Blood."

Neither Keener's nor McDormand's roles are the sort that scream Oscar, though, making them long shots against the flashier performances of Weisz and Williams.

First-time nominee Adams has a substantial list of credits behind her, but mostly in smaller roles, so she comes to the Oscars looking like this year's out-of-the-blue newcomer.

In "Junebug," Adams is a breath of pure freshness as a wide-eyed sweetheart of a Southern gal entranced by her husband's worldly new sister-in-law. The role earned Adams an acting prize at last year's Sundance Film Festival. *AP*

Chemistry . . .

From page A3-1

making it in the international ballroom dancing arena?

If this is something you enjoy, keep your determination intact. Never give up until you reach your goals.

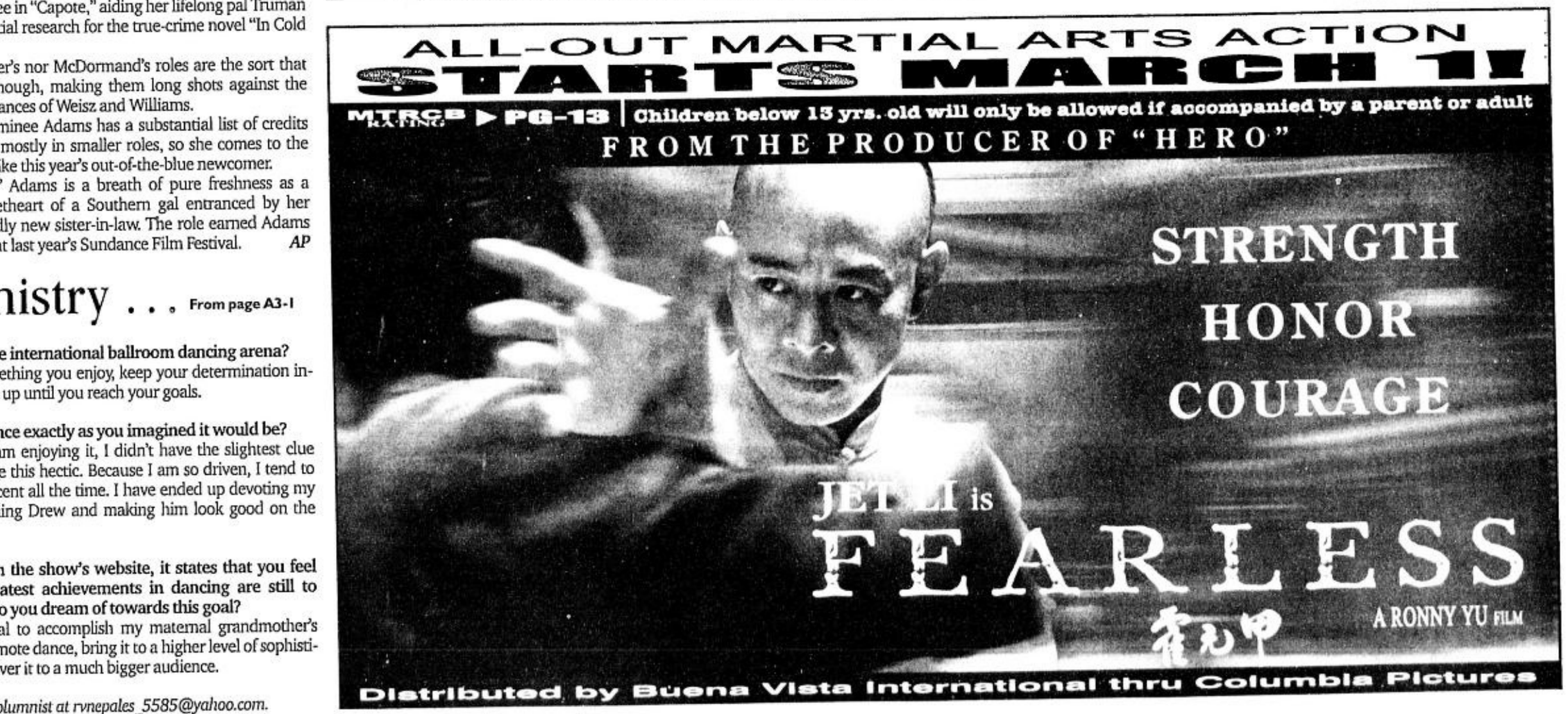
Is this experience exactly as you imagined it would be?

Although I am enjoying it, I didn't have the slightest clue that it would be this hectic. Because I am so driven, I tend to give it 110 percent all the time. I have ended up devoting my entire life training Drew and making him look good on the dance floor.

In your bio on the show's website, it states that you feel that your greatest achievements in dancing are still to come. What do you dream of towards this goal?

It is my goal to accomplish my maternal grandmother's mission to promote dance, bring it to a higher level of sophistication and deliver it to a much bigger audience.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.



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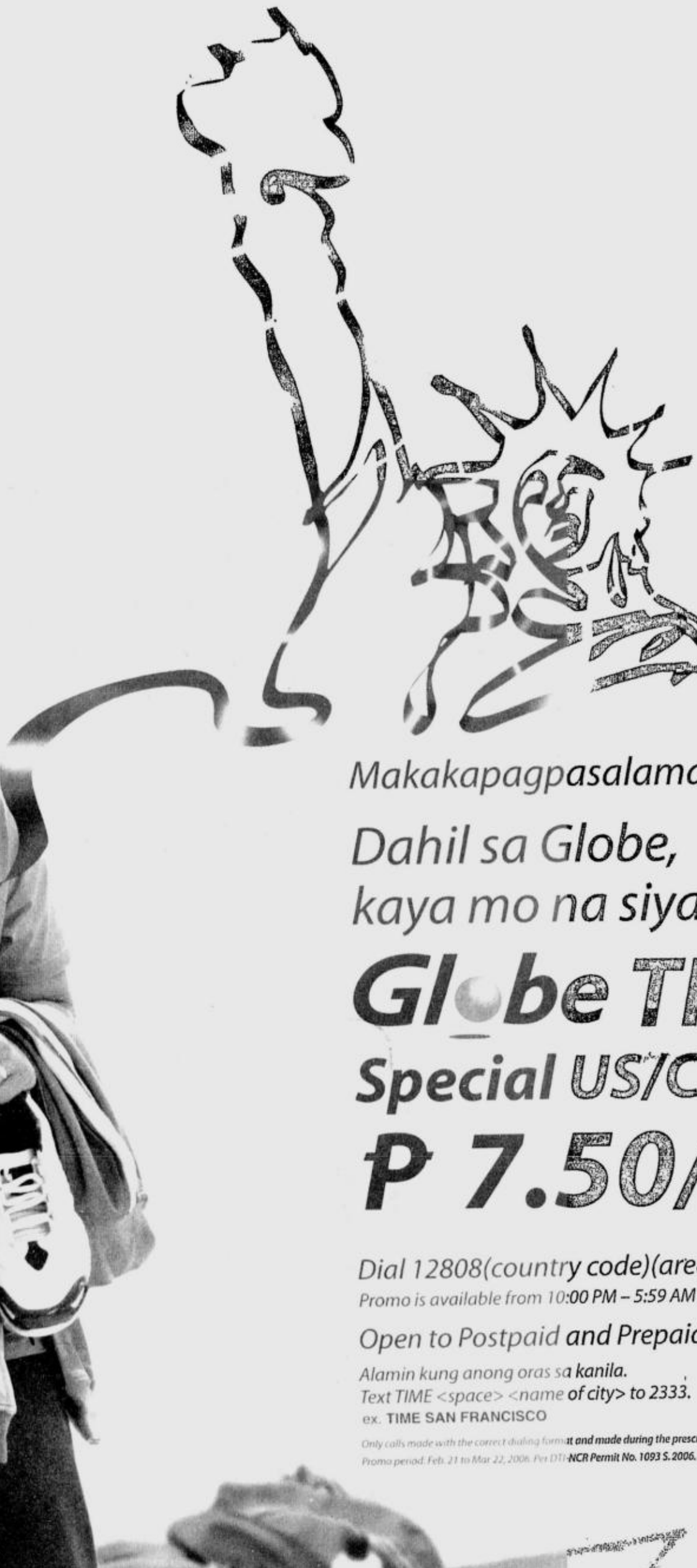

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ACE Young REUTERS

AYLA Brown REUTERS

JOSE "Sway" Penala REUTERS

4 leave 'Idol'

Fil-Am Sway still in there; heartthrobs emerge

NEW YORK—NOW THERE ARE 20. "American Idol" booted four contestants Thursday night (Friday in Manila)—two guys and two girls—in the show's first elimination round of the fifth season.

Television's top-rated show tallied viewers' votes and scratched off the bottom two of each sex—Becky O'Donohue, Stevie Scott, Bobby Bennett and Patrick Hall.

Judge Paula Abdul's eyes brimmed with tears when O'Donohue, 25, got the cut after receiving the lowest number of votes. The New York native, who sang "Because the Night," made other news this week when Maxim released some sexy photos of her and her twin sister, Jessie, that it had taken a couple of years ago. (*See photo.*)

"I think you're going to be a very successful model," said acerbic judge Simon Cowell.

Scott, a 19-year-old from Fair Oaks, Calif., drew criticism from Cowell, who said her performance of "To Where You Are" was "forgettable."

Bennett, a 19-year-old Barry Manilow fanatic from Denver, endured criticism from Cowell as well for his theatrical rendition of "Copacabana."

"It was a nightmare that would have Barry Manilow screaming in horror," Simon said.

But Bennett shook it off.

"I will always like Simon," he said.

Cowell also scolded Hall, 27, for his "average" rendition of "Come to My Window."

Lesson learned

"It's a lesson learned," Cowell said. "You have to stand out in the crowd."

Fil-Am Jose "Sway" Penala is still hanging in there. On the guys' night this week, Sway was the first to make judge Randy Jackson exclaim, "We got a hot one right here!"

Meanwhile, early heartthrobs have emerged: finalists Ace Young and Ayla Brown, both strong contenders.

"American Idol" has been soundly beating NBC's Olympic telecasts in the ratings, drawing about 30 million viewers per telecast this season.

Host Ryan Seacrest said on Thursday's telecast that the show had received some 40 million votes from its viewers.

Men and women have been competing separately since the Fox blockbuster returned Jan. 17, but a cross-gender sing-off featuring the last 12 performers will begin March 14. The finale is slated for May 24. *AP*

BECKY O'Donohue, right, with twin sister, Jessie, in this image taken two years ago for Maxim Online's fantasy baseball game.

Big blast from the past

NEW YORK—THE FIRST TIME BARRY Manilow immersed himself in pop radio, he was an unknown singer-songwriter looking for his first hit with a song called "Mandy"—a tune he wasn't too thrilled about.

So he decided to check out what the competition had to offer.

"I turned the radio on and heard 'Kung Fu Fighting' and 'Disco Duck,'" said Manilow, laughing. "I said, 'These people need me!' And that was my first entrance into pop music."

SPIN CITY

Now, some three decades later, Manilow, still disenchanted with pop radio, finds himself needed again. But instead of coming to the rescue of listeners with the sentimental, semi-schmaltzy ballads that made him famous, he has returned with "The Greatest Songs of the Fifties"—an Arista Records collection of classic romantic tunes, including revered songs like Elvis Presley's "Are You Lonesome Tonight" and the album's first single, "Unchained Melody."

Frustration

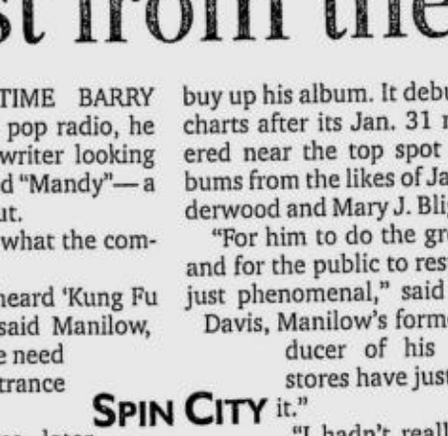
"I think if 'Unchained Melody' does what I think it can do, I think there is an audience out there that would heave a sigh of relief— that finally, there is a melody, and orchestration, production, and a vocalist that is giving them a song that they can just listen to... and not be annoyed by the vocal acrobatics that vocalists seem to think is impressive," said Manilow, with a hint of frustration in his voice.

So far, fans are demonstrating their relief not by sighing, but by racing to buy up his album. It debuted at the top of the charts after its Jan. 31 release and has hovered near the top spot since, outselling albums from the likes of Jamie Foxx, Carrie Underwood and Mary J. Blige.

"For him to do the great songs of the '50s and for the public to respond in that way, it's just phenomenal," said record mogul Clive Davis, Manilow's former mentor and a producer of his latest album. "The stores have just been running out of it."

"I hadn't really thought about the '50s; The '50s kind of passed me by when I was growing up," said the 59-year-old Manilow. "When I began to get into music and actually find myself connecting to music, it wasn't those songs. It wasn't the '50s. It was the generation before the '50s, the Ella Fitzgeralds and the Sinatras and the writers like Johnny Mercer."

But he decided to give the idea consideration simply because Davis suggested it. After all, it was Davis who first made Manilow a star, signing him to his new Arista label 31 years ago and pushing him to record the No. 1 hit song "Mandy."



"It is difficult for an artist of my age to do an original album," Manilo conceded. "And then Clive came with this interesting idea."

So he took Davis' suggestion—and his list of about 80 songs—and started researching the music of the era that passed him by. And he found

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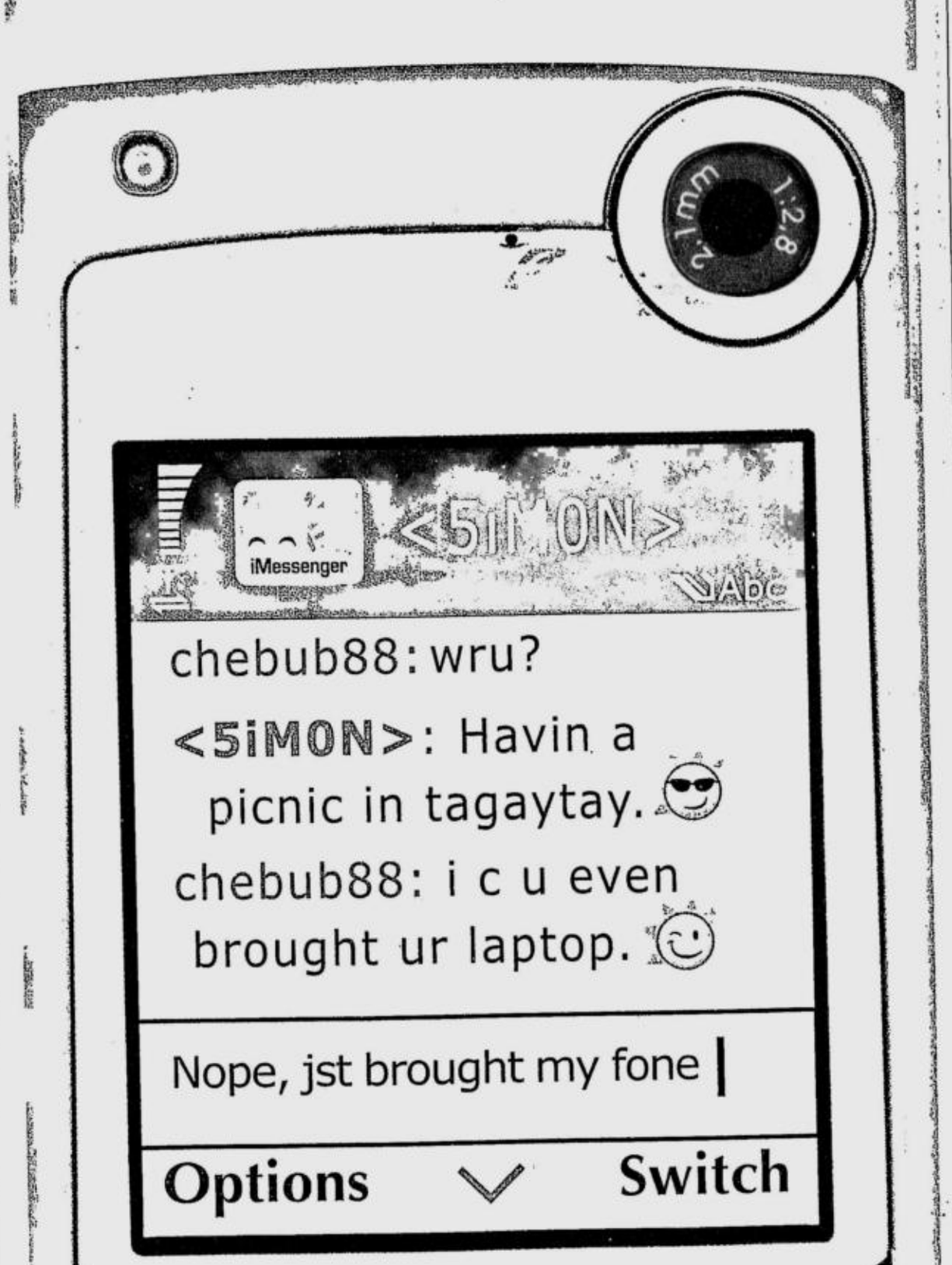

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Big blast from the past

From page A4-1

himself enchanted.

"What I found was that they were good," he said. "They were well written, they were innocent."

And they remain timeless, resonating with listeners some 50 years after they were originally recorded.

Manilow has been so inspired by the success of this latest project, he is open to exploring the music of other eras as well.

"I wonder if people would enjoy a tribute to the songs of the '60s, in this style. And if that works, maybe there's a 'Songs of the '70s and '80s.'" *AP*

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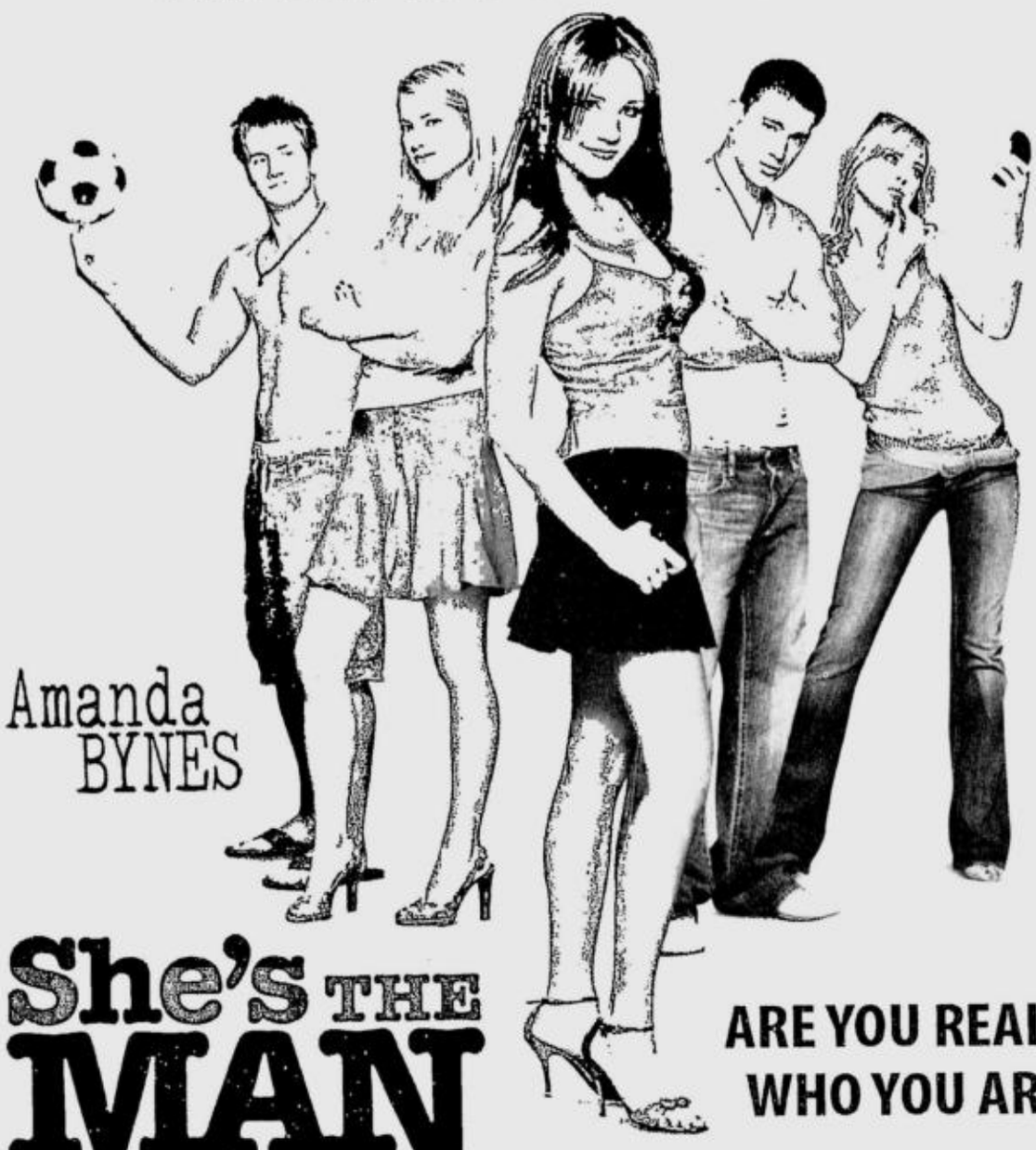

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Country's Biggest Wedding Fair Turns 8

More Than 210 Suppliers Participating

After 7 successful runs since its inception in 2002, Wedding Expo Philippines gears up for its 8th edition on March 4 – 5, 2006 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City with thousands of stylish wedding ideas for this year's soon-to-weds. Almost 2,500 sqm of exhibit space will be transformed into a wedding wonderland by the country's top suppliers. Popular wedding caterer to showbiz stars and culinary whiz Hizon's Catering (Tel. No. 928.3672 / 925.0103) will present the latest menu craze served in celebrity banquets while Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers & Event Styling (Tel. No. 687.6916 / 747.1816) wields his magic again as the official event stylist of Wedding Expo Philippines. Wedding Essentials Magazine, the style guide of today's discerning brides and grooms, will present a never-before-seen tableau of wedding fineries to showcase their forecast for 2006. FREE admission to this event will be given to those who will pre-register online through **www.themesnmotifs.com.**

Taking center stage this March are the new breed of internationally-trained twenty something chefs who look like winsome grooms themselves. Chef David Hizon, heir apparent to the Hizon's Catering business, exemplifies the young creative master cooks in what is now fast becoming the dream profession of the hip set. Together with other culinary experts, he will introduce sumptuous kitchen works of art perfected in their apprenticeships abroad and served in wedding feasts of the rich and famous. Also, the country's ace photographers and videographers will once again dazzle soon-to-weds with the latest equipment and techniques learned from their participation in the most recent international conventions in photography and videography. The fashion designer's row, a big hit during the last Wedding Expo Philippines, will highlight each couturier's masterpiece in a manner reminiscent of museum styling. A mesmerizing visual treat, wedding apparel of all shapes and inspirations will compete for soon-to-weds' attention in an interesting display of fine couture and sartorial creativity.

Much awaited by soon-to-weds planning for their grand day, Wedding Expo Philippines provides a myriad choices in all aspects of the wedding preparation. It is the biggest gathering of the country's top purveyors of wedding-related products and services with no less than 210 suppliers participating. Some suppliers join no other wedding fair but Wedding Expo Philippines. Thus, soon-to-weds get a rare treat in meeting the finest industry leaders in just one venue. To provide more choices, an additional 750-sqm fully air-conditioned tent will be built by Wedding Essentials Magazine to house the photographers, one-stop-shops, videographers, and other wedding day requisites.

A chance to win a honeymoon trip to Hong Kong awaits lucky couples booking their favorite suppliers during the two-day event. Every P1,000.00 booked onsite is entitled to one raffle coupon for the honeymoon raffle. Exclusive discounts and special giveaways are also available. A free copy of IDEAS, the Wedding Expo Philippines Resource Book cum souvenir programme will be distributed to all brides and grooms at the fair. On top of these, hourly raffle draws will be conducted to make the soon-to-weds' experience in Wedding Expo Philippines more exciting and fun.

Widely acknowledged as the launch venue of choice in the local wedding industry, Wedding Expo Philippines has introduced numerous companies, products, and services in its past 7 editions. This March, at least 10 companies will be launched in various categories including giveaways, caterers, alternative desserts, etc. Hundreds of new ideas will be showcased.

Wedding Expo Philippines' 8th edition marks another milestone as it makes history as the longest running wedding fair in the country. This is a strong testament to the high satisfaction of both soon-to-weds and exhibitors with their experience at the fair. For more inquiries, call Themes & Motifs – The Special Events Co. at 371.9783 or 635.3267

BACK row, from left: Mary Pilar de Gorostiza, Alia Hanelene Faytaren, Anna Maris Igpit, Jeanne Bernadette Bello. Front row, from left: Louise Dianne Navera, Vanessa Anne Kibanoff, Denille Lou Valmonte

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

No 'returnee' is competing in Bb Pilipinas 2006—there are only new faces—the first time in many years

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Star In A Million Mall Tour - Feb. 26 Sunday Metropolis Alabang.

Formidable, competitive

By Armin Adina

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS, NO "returnee" is competing in the Binibining Pilipinas pageant.

It seems nobody was willing, just yet, to follow in the footsteps of Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman, herself a two-time pageant participant.

Fresh faces, 24 of them, studded Friday's press presentation of official candidates at the Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

The formidable batch of newbies include University of the Philippines political science graduate Lia Andrea Ramos, 25, who has stirred some interest even before she was named a candidate.

Ramos has had to clarify rumors that she is based in the United States and working for the United Nations. "That's not true," she insisted. "I'm based in the Philippines. I've been working with the Asia Foundation for over two years."

Other lookers are: interior design student Mary Pilar de Gorostiza, 21, and Marie Ann Umali, 19, a dead ringer for actress Francine Prieto. Entrepreneur Denille Lou Valmonte 24, stood out for her glowing dusky complexion and killer curves; Mylene Maligaya claimed the stage with her very sexy poses.

Foreign blood

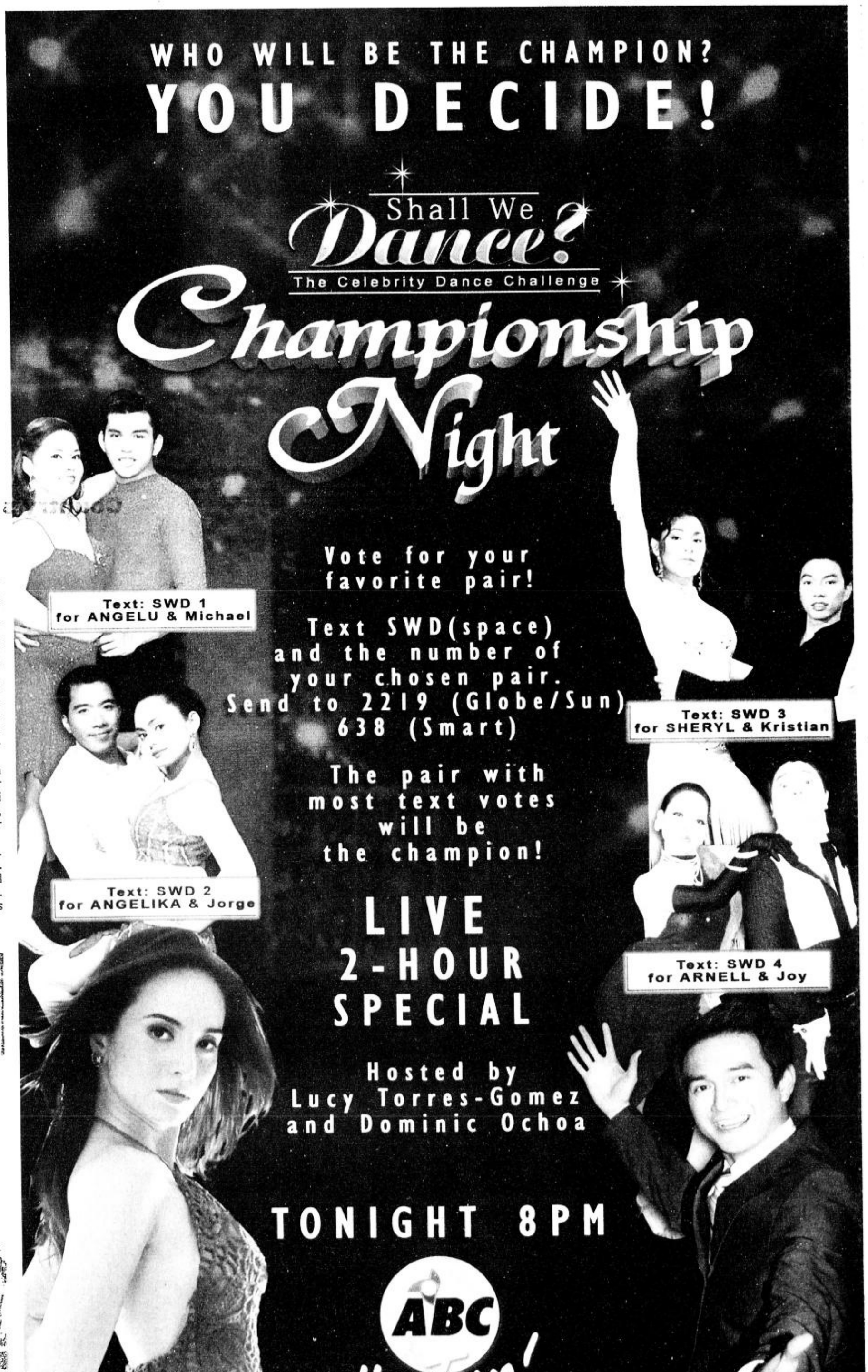
A handful of girls are of foreign ancestry —Vanessa Kibanoff, Meral Ates, Caroline Yorke and Vera Rieter. And there's a dash of veterans from other pageants—Miss Fort Ilocandia Fiona Marie Lava, also a Miss Philippines-Earth semifinalist and Mutya ng Pilipinas runner up; and Boholana beauty titlist Ana Maris Igpit.

"This batch is very competitive!" exclaimed outgoing queen Gionna Cabrera, Miss Photogenic in the 2005 Miss Universe pageant. "We may win another international crown," said Carlene Aguilar, 2005 Miss World semifinalist.

Earlier, two "voluntarily withdrew" from the contest. Bb. Pilipinas project director Ernesto Roca said German-born Mayumi Keller has yet to acquire dual citizenship, while Aeesha Rand could not get out of a prior commitment.

The pageant is set on March 4, 7:30 p.m. with a delayed telecast at 9 p.m. over GMA 7. Station executive Bang Arespacochaga said there will be little changes in the program. Dingdong Dantes will share hosting chores with Dennis Trillo and Pia Guanio.

LIA Ramos: Happy to be here!



Stars remember Edsa I

I'd do it again—Anita Linda

JUNE Keithley: "We made a difference."

Reminiscing with celebrities on the Revolution of 1986 yields a treasure trove of memories and trivia. Would they do it again? We elicit responses that are just as varied

By Bayani San Diego Jr. and Marinel R. Cruz

ANITA: Yes.

PERLA: No.

BIBETH: Not allowed.

BEHN: Only if...

Anita Linda

Actress

I WENT ON MY OWN BECAUSE my daughter refused to accompany me. But she followed me in her car to the gate of our subdivision in Alabang. She dropped me off in Guadalupe, where I started my trek to Camp Crame.

I later met up with the group of Leo Martinez, Laurice Guillen, Johnny Delgado and Perla Bautista and that night we kept vigil in Libis-White Plains-Blue Ridge. The following morning we had breakfast in Leo's apartment and I hitched a ride with strangers back to Alabang.

Would I do it again? Oh, yes! But for a good cause. Even though I am not as strong now as I was then, I'd still do it. But I know that the notion of People Power has changed somehow. In 1986, everyone was united—socialites and the masses, students and artists. We were all there.

Joey Reyes

Director

At the old Channel 4 (now, the ABS-CBN compound), my best friend Manny Castañeda and I were assigned to the newsroom! There we were, two sitcom writers, manning the telefax machines and, later, the telephones.

I remember seeing Quezon Avenue deserted for the first time in my life. So Manny and I played "skippity-hop" on the highway. We were having a ball until someone shouted that there were snipers in the [television] towers.

When it was confirmed that the Marcoses had fled, we were on the rooftop of the studio, crying and singing "Bayan Ko." It was a celebration!

Would I do it again? I've done it twice already! I was in the front lines of Edsa II. I read Bishop Soc Villegas' story in the INQUIRER and I agree with him completely. We have raped the notion of People Power. Its purity has been lost. It has become the tool of politicians. I won't do it for the present clowns that are running the government. We should analyze the events of Edsa II and III and see them for what they really were. Would I go back to Edsa? The stress and the pollution are bad for my skin!

Tessie Tomas

Comedienne

My brothers and I were among the first to arrive in Camp Crame. Later, I went to Channel 4, where I was assigned to the kitchen with [the late singer] Paola Luz.

The scariest part was when we heard rumors that Marcos troops would bomb the studio. At that time, I was with my 10-year-old son Robin. But I was glad he was with me. He later told me that, because he had witnessed it, he understood the spirit of Edsa.

Would I do it again? *Isang malaking "depende"* (One big "It depends...)! We can't keep on launching revolutions every time we have a problem with the government. We need to make the system work. Our primary obligations as citizens are to follow the laws and pay taxes and not to be street parliamentarians. We've been there twice already; another Edsa isn't funny anymore.

Leo Martinez

Director general, Film Academy of the Philippines

We were supposed to have a forum with Dong Puno at the Actors' Workshop headquarters. We cancelled it and decided as a group that the order of the day was to go to Edsa! We were only a few then. Most show biz folks were for Marcos. We went carrying the yellow flag of the Actors' Workshop Foundation.

Since there were too many people in Channel 4, I decided to keep vigil near Crame instead. *Na*-teargas *kami do'n*. I distinctly remember the rhythm of the soldiers' footsteps. Boom-boom-boom! It was in Libis. It's a flyover now.

When Nora Aunor arrived in Crame, she was booed by the crowd [because she had campaigned for Marcos]. Johnny Delgado rushed to embrace and shield her.

Would I do it again? Oh yes! It was scary, but we felt proud at the same time. Given the chance, I'd march on the streets again. But it should be for a compelling reason. Definitely, I wouldn't do it for a *politico*. I am still waiting for that day when Filipinos will rise, united, again.

We all got goosebumps singing "Bayan Ko." *Ipaglaban natin ang ating kultura—ang pamana ng ating kagalingan at karangalan* (We should fight for our culture—the legacy of our greatness and integrity)."

Mitch Valdes

Singer-comedienne

My job during that whole time was to pick up surrendering soldiers from different safe houses and take them to Crame and Aguinaldo! I was a courier service and diplomat combined. To think my Nissan Stanza was brand-new and I had not paid for it!

I also smuggled in film for the embedded television crew in Crame. We put the stuff under loaves of bread.

It was like a movie.

There was a rumor that tanks were dispatched to attack the protesters. I prayed that my death would be quick and painless. You know how slow those tanks are!

When we heard that the Marcoses had left, I cried, but I sensed that our country still had a long way to go before it could totally remove the culture of the martial law era.

Would I do it again? Of course! Anybody who gets in the way of my freedom of expression, I would run over with a tank!

Bibeth Orteza

Movie/TV writer, actress, activist

I was in New York at the time people gathered on Edsa in 1986. But I was very much part of the events that led to Edsa I. I had previously led rallies in many parts of Manila.

While I was in New York, I took charge of mass actions, too. For a time, my husband (Carlitos Siguion Reyna) and I guarded the Marcos home on East 66th Street. I remember that while I was there, I received a call from someone looking for Carlitos. The caller said Carlitos' uncle, Juan Ponce Enrile, had led a breakaway faction in Manila.

Would I do it again? My doctor called me this morning. She didn't allow me to go to Edsa. *Pinangunahan na ako*. (Bibeth was diagnosed with breast cancer in November 2004.) Carlitos is there right now (at press time on Friday). I'm very proud of him. It has always been my dream to marry an activist. I actually prayed for it.

Carlitos said he felt so ineffective when he was in New York while things were happening here. Now, he got his wish. I see him on television, standing beside former vice president (Teofisto) Guingona. He's the representative of the family.

Behn Cervantes

Stage director, columnist

I was at Edsa as a member of a protest group that included Lino Brocka. The group monitored the broadcast of Radio Veritas. I would do it again but only if there's "real" People Power and not just a movement instigated by people in politics. I want the people to exercise their power to speak out.

Johnny Delgado

Actor, director

I was in front of Camp Crame when the action took place. My group and I helped Nora Aunor get inside the camp. The passion I felt during Edsa I is still inside me; *wala pa naman akong* Edsa fatigue. But there's too much politicking right now. I just want to watch from afar and reflect. *Madami masyadong nagsasalita.*

CELESTE Legaspi, Nora Aunor and Johnny Delgado

MITCH (who also brought Edsa to the stage): Of course.

Perla Bautista

Actress

I had just arrived from a taping in Baguio and went straight to Edsa. I must've walked nine kilometers. When we sang "Lupang Hinirang" in Aguinaldo and got to that part *"ang mamatay ng dahil sa 'yo..."* we really meant it, because we knew we could die any moment. There were people passing around *lugaw* (congee) and candles for the long vigil.

I won't go back to Edsa because the people I see there now leading the movement are pursuing their own agenda. When they were in power, they didn't do anything to alleviate our people's suffering. I don't think it's so urgent. What is more important is that we all work hard and be productive to help our country progress. Let's put an end to debates and chaos. All I want is peace.

Laurice Guillen

Actress, director

I was at Edsa the first two days of the four-day protest. On the last day, I was at the gate of Malacañang. Would I do it again? *Hindi na*. I believe that the Edsa experience was not something that man could have organized. It was an act of God. I don't think it can ever be duplicated.

June Keithley

Broadcaster

Of course I'd do it again. It made a great deal of difference. What we did affected the history of the world. Because of People Power in Edsa, the Berlin Wall fell and Communism in Eastern Europe crumbled. They had something like that in Poland, too. We were the impetus that led to those changes.

LAURICE and Johnny: Let's go for peace.

TESSIE (here shown as her stage character "Meldita"): It depends...

Sunday BIZ

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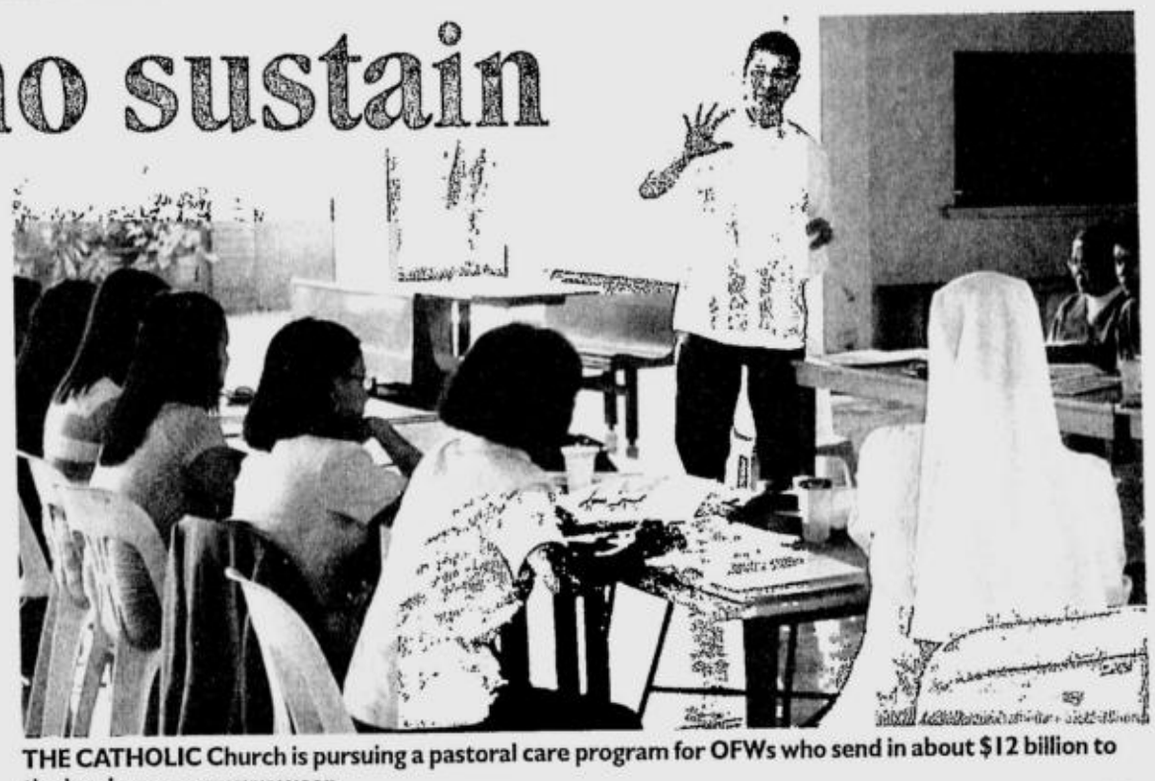
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Caring for those who sustain RP's economy



THE CATHOLIC Church is pursuing a pastoral care program for OFWs who send in about $12 billion to the local economy every year.

By Martin G. Buñag
Contributor

BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT AND NGOs are not the only sectors focusing on the OFWs and their families. The Catholic Church has also actively pursued a pastoral care program for this segment that, according to the World Banks Global Economic Report, sends $11.6 billion each year, equivalent to 13.5 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

A major project that impacts on the plight of the migrant families is the National Migrants Sunday organized by the Batangas Archdiocese on March 4 and 5, 2006.

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles says 60 percent of the social ills in Batangas are a result of migration. Dysfunctional families reflect affected husband and wife relationships as well as those with children. Asian Institute of Management Policy Center Executive Director, Federico Macaranas, attests to this breakdown of family ties as one of the costs of migration.

Another concern is the relocation costs compromising future earnings due to debt payments. Consultancy firm Systemat-Prodex recently conducted a survey in Batangas for a corporate social responsibility program on enterprise development and saw OFWs going into debt when they pay placement fees as high as P400,000.

Budgeting remittance

The firm also drew-up personal financial models from the survey. For some, half of the cost of the placement fee is borne by the agency, relieving a family of heavy debt servicing. One such case is that of a family of a contract worker from Mabini, Batangas who works in Dubai.

The family spends P15,700 out of a monthly remittance of P20,000, which is net of the *hulugan* for the placement fee. The biggest allocation of P5,000 goes to the mother-in-law, followed by P3,300 for groceries, *bigas* and miscellaneous everyday expenses, and P3,000 for the education of their two children and a *pamangkin*.

The purchase of cell phone cards at P2,000 takes precedence over basic utilities like P600 for water and P1,300 for electricity. With P500 going to savings, the rest of the money averaging P5,000 goes to entertainment, shopping and other unbudgeted expenses, or about P60,000 annually for discretionary items.

The family recently started a small business, taking care of "45-day *manok*" which is sold in the market. This would add to her other incomes that total about P40,000 annually. Quite a bonus for turning a portion of the funds to productive uses.

OFW spending

In a study, Dr. Roberto de Vera of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) said that OFW families spent as much as P80 billion last year on discretionary items. He added that OFW families earning P50,000 to P99,000 annually, outside of their remittances received, spend an average of P49,000 on discretionary goods. This is similar to the case of the previously cited Mabini, Batangas family who has P40,000 to P50,000 income outside of remittances received and can afford discretionary spending of about P60,000 annually.

It can be inferred from the study that companies should come out and service the more essential needs of the OFW market as in the case of a seaman's wife who allocates 30 percent of a $960 monthly remittance for an educational plan, or of the husband of an OFW in Italy who has been buying property to secure the future.

National Migrants Sunday

In Batangas, the Church is counting on companies and institutions with a supportive disposition to help sustain the momentum. It will spearhead for Calabarzon, the National Mi-

CARING/ B3

John Rex, Criselle, Lester, Jeffrey and Ryan in Germany

Building a network of young envoys to save the environment

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT HAS LONG been part of Bayer AG's corporate existence. It invests time, effort and money to strike a balance between ensuring it lives up to its commitment to protect the environment while doing good business.

"Environmental protection should be advanced across generations and national boundaries," stated Bayer management board chair Werner Wenning

Thus, it has made another commitment—to share this passion with the youth and ensure that it is passed on from one generation to another across the globe.

The Bayer Young Environmental Envoy Program fulfills this commitment by creating awareness among the youth about protecting mother nature, getting the youth to assume greater ownership of their environment.

The BYEE Program builds a global network of young ambassadors for the environment.

The yearly program, now done in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program, started in Thailand almost 10 years ago.

In its early years, only a handful of youth delegates from four Asian countries—the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and India—were sent to the Bayer headquarters in Leverkusen, Germany for a week-long exposure tour. The tour is the culmination of months of the program's implementation—from the search of candidates to the selection of the finalists to an environment project competition and, eventually, of the young delegates who will be sent to Germany.

It did not take long before the number of the participants grew. For 2005, the BYEE Leverkusen tour was participated by 45 young ambassadors from 14 countries.

For the 2005 BYEE Program, the Philippines sent John Rex N. Jardinero, a second year BS Environmental Science student of Palawan State University; Ryan Anthony B. Bucat, a third year BS Medical Technology student of Lorma Colleges in La Union; Criselle V. Bautista, a senior Management Engineering student of Ateneo de Manila University; Jeffrey P. Mora, who has just obtained his BS Chemistry degree from Far Eastern University, and Lester Louis L. Lopez, a veterinary medicine graduate from UP, Los Banos.

John Rex, Ryan, Jeffrey, Lester, Criselle and the 40 other students from other countries were selected from among thousands of applicants.

John Rex

John Rex is involved in mangrove rehabilitation efforts covering a dozen coastal barangays in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. He realized early on that in projects of this proportion, networking is a key element. Thus, even before the BYEE Program, he has already been very active in organizing youth groups. His Young Earth Savers Network has the following core programs: The HS Students Fellowship for the Environment, a basic eco camping program for highs school students; Save the Ignored Youths to Save the Earth for elementary students; Council of Young Leaders for the Environment, which takes care of policies and programs, and the Out of School Youth Fellowship for Nature.

He says the BYEE Program made him realize that there are many other young people who share his passion for the environment. From the time Bayer started its search for young envoys, networking in and out his community has already started, he says. The trip to Germany gave him a perspective on how big the network can become.

After seeing during that trip proofs that things can be done to save and protect the environment, John Rex is preparing himself for bigger things that, he believes, he can easily handle with the help of his BYEE network.

Ryan

The BYEE network also works well for Ryan and his environmental projects. "With the network we have, youth environmentalists here and overseas can now share our respective experiences and ideas," he says.

Through the local network of envoys, Ryan

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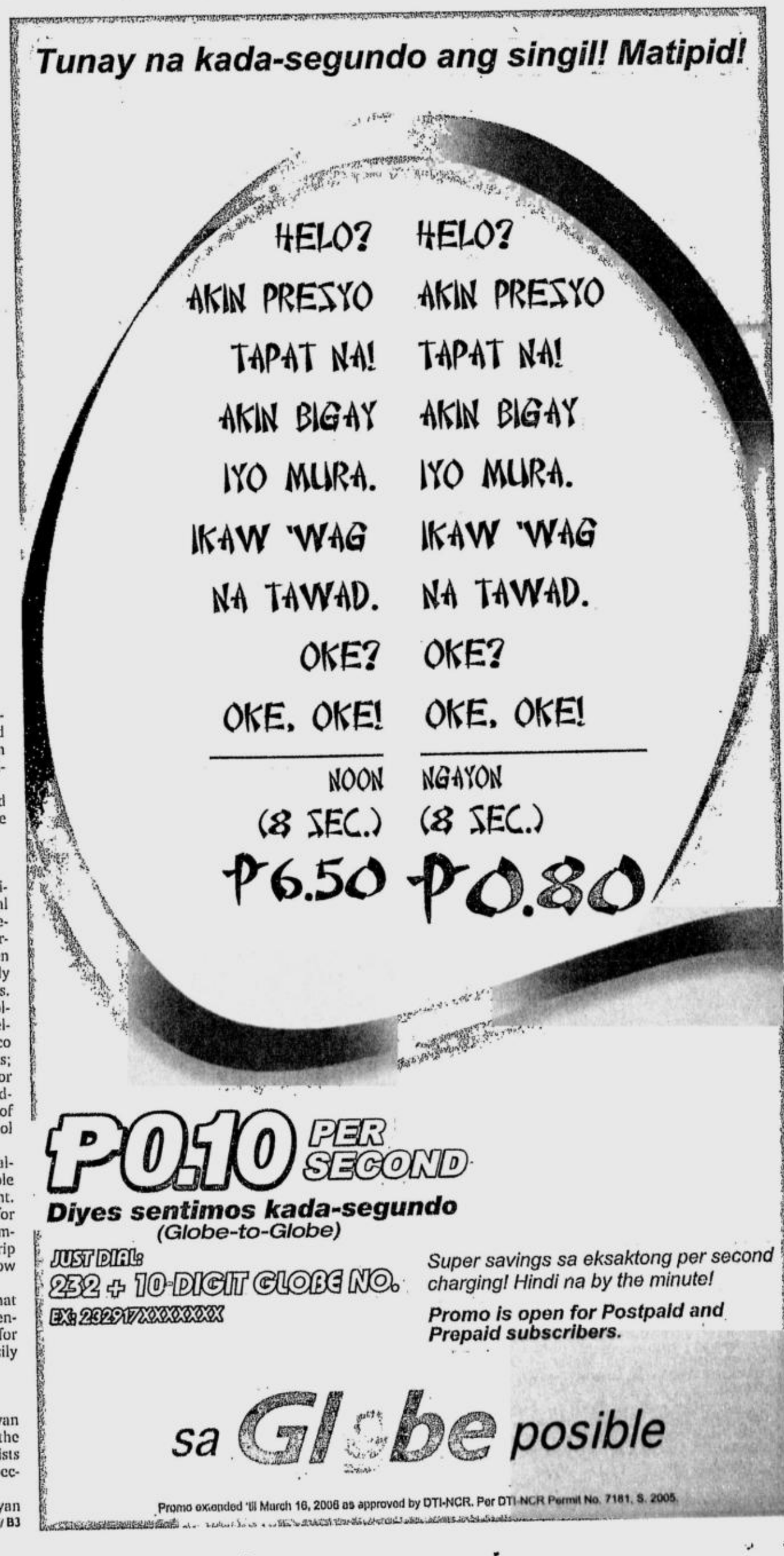

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Goodbye dollars, hello euros

By Doris C. Dumlao

PABLO YAMBOT, A YUPPIE IN HIS EARLY 30s, has long wanted to convert a portion of his savings in euros or in financial instruments denominated in Europe's unified currency.

This systems manager for global business services at Procter & Gamble Asia Pte. Ltd. isn't really an active portfolio investor but he's well-read, well-travelled, fairly attuned to global financial trends and has excess cash outside of his household's cookie jar. His interest was kindled upon noticing that the US dollar has been weakening against major global currencies while the euro has held its ground.

Yambot's mindset reflects what many central banks across the globe are now doing—shifting some of their foreign reserves to euros. And there's an increasing supply of high-yielding securities in this currency as many emerging markets, including the Philippines, have issued new euro-denominated bonds primarily to diversify their currency risks.

In the past, it wouldn't have been easy for a domestic retail investor like Yambot to find a euro-denominated financial instrument that would earn more than what's offered by foreign currency deposit units or dollar accounts. For instance, the Philippine government sold 500 million euro bonds early this year (as part of a $2.1-billion fresh global bond foray) and Yambot would have eagerly bought some if he had the chance.

The Ayalas' Bank of the Philippine Islands now makes it possible for resident investors to participate in a fund that invests in those euro-denominated securities. Its ALFM Euro Bond Fund, created in March last year but offered to the public only recently, is the Philippines' first and only mutual fund denominated in euros.

"The euro has come of age," says Romeo Bernardo, chair of the ALFM Euro Bond.

European Union's Ambassador to the Philippines Jan De Kok who graced the new fund's launch says the euro, introduced in 1999 only as a paper currency, has gone past birth pains to emerge as a major global currency.

"This fund is yet another confirmation that the euro has arrived in the Philippines," De Kok says.

Euro banknotes and coins have been in circulation since January 2002 and are now a part of daily life for over 300 million Europeans living in the eurozone, being the single currency used by 12 European Union countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland.

"It's an alternative for investors to allow them to spread their risk and therefore reduce their losses and increase their gains with another international currency, the euro," De Kok notes with pride.

"The economic fundamentals in the eurozone have gotten better and better and that shall underpin the strength of the euro, allowing investors to make larger profits while having to take less risks," he says.

A mutual fund is an investment entity that pools shareholder or unitholder funds and invests them in various securities. The units or shares are redeemable by the fund on demand by the investor. The value of the underlying assets of the fund influences the current price of units.

In the case of the ALFM Euro, about 98 percent is currently invested in Philippine euro-denominated sovereign bonds but the mutual fund plans to shift a portion to other Asian sovereign debt issues.

Dojo Sison, president of BPI Asset Management Inc., says the stable interest rate regime in the euro-zone, as opposed to the monetary tightening cycle in the United States, is providing a good opportunity for bond investors. In 2005, for instance, the ALFM Eurobond Fund had outperformed US bonds.

Sison says the euro has more room to appreciate this year, providing investors in euro-denominated assets with opportunity to lock in further gains.

The mutual fund is benchmarked against one-year German Treasury bills and has likewise overperformed it so far this year. From year to date, ALFM Euro has posted an annualized return of 9.17 percent versus the 2.72 percent from the comparative German treasury. For the past 30 days, it has yielded 3.53 percent versus the 2.47 percent German benchmark.

The ALFM Euro aims for steady income with returns and inflows derived out of investments in primarily foreign currency-denominated instruments and securities issued by local and foreign entities, with its base currency in euros.

Minimum investment in the new mutual fund is 1,000 euros while minimum additional investment is 200 euros. It is distributed by BPI Capital Corp., BPI Securities Corp. and BPI Investment Management Inc. This year, ALFM Euro is targeted to grow its size by about 20 percent, leveraging on BPI's leadership in the country's growing mutual fund business.

BPI officials say the mutual fund will also target European expats in the Philippines with excess euros which are kept only in bank deposits and would like to invest in Philippine euro-denominated debt papers.

Caterers to hold confab

THE FOOD CATERERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (FCAP) will hold its second food caterers conference dubbed "New Trends, New Techniques" on Feb. 28 at the Teatro Marikina, Shoe Avenue corner V. Gomez Street, San Roque, Marikina City.

The annual one-day conference will cover topics like "Understanding the EVAT Law," "Food Hygiene and Sanitation." The Department of Trade and Industry is conducting the seminar "Financing for the Creative Industry."

Food columnist Reggie Aspiras will be tackling "The Practical Caterer" while Jaime Santiago will discuss "New Trends in Floral Styling." Chef Jerome de Vera will share his expertise as he demonstrates "Exciting Food & Vegetable Carving." "New & Quick Desserts" will be taught by Dennis Hipolito.

"Healthy Seafood Cooking" will be done by a seafood specialist from Alson Industries.

"This conference is for our fellow caterers who would like to update themselves on the latest trends and practices in our industry," says FCAP chair Danny Jacinto of The Swan Catering.

For questions, 371-48-30 and 410-03-90.

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Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Senate of the Philippines invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the printing and binding of *"SENATE MEMORABILIA"* with the following specifications:

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	PROJECT ALLOCATION	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE/PROJECT
SENATE MEMORABILIA (13th Congress 2005-2006) No. of Pages : 201 including cover Size : 9" x 12" (folded) Stock : 80 lbs. Bookpaper coated both sides Binding : smythe-sewing; hardbound Cover : 120 lbs. Board with printing on book cloth Process : full color off set Delivery : 20 days after receipt of CD-ROMS from the Senate Memento Project Committee	2,000 cps.	Php 1,600,000.00	Php 200.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 401, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **1:30 PM to 6:00 PM, February 27 to March 2 and March 6-9, 2006** upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. Liquidated damages of Php 1,000.00 or 1/10 of one percent (1%) of the unperformed portion, whichever is higher, for each day of delay shall be imposed on the printer for failure to deliver on said deadline. **The pre-bidding conference shall be held on March 14, 2006, 10:00 AM** at the Office of the Deputy Secretary for Administrative and Financial Services, Rm. 408, 4th Floor, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Pasay City.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

This Invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) at www.procurementservice.org. and posted at the 4th Floor Senate bulletin board.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telefax no. 552-6601 local 1602 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW ALL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – February 20 & 26, 2006)

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March 28, 2006 (Tuesday)
Unleashing the Power of Passion in Work and Life
TITA DATU PUANGCO, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc.
Passion is what gives shape and substance to our dreams in life and at work. We all can wield the power of passion to help us achieve our goals at work and in life. How do we unleash this power? Ms. Puangco will show us how we can tap into our innermost strengths to allow passion into our lives. In so doing, we are able to live up to our fullest potential as human beings.

March 29, 2006 (Wednesday)
Mastering Effective Face-to-Face Communication at Work
JOSEFINA O. SANTAMARIA, President, Career Systems, Inc.
As e-mail, instant messaging and other electronic means of communication become common at work, the opportunities afforded by face-to-face communication have never been more important. This session will show you how to speak directly and confidently, assert yourself in uncomfortable situations, and offer constructive criticism. Learn also how to use the speaking word more effectively, influence listeners, convey confidence with body language and avoid misunderstanding.

March 30, 2006 (Thursday)
Managing Differences 360 Degrees
ERNIE O. CECILIA, President, EC Business Solutions and Career Center
There will always be differences in personalities, ideas, perceptions and in many other areas among people. Working in organizations means that one has to work well with others. This session will give you a guide to managing differences with people from all levels in the organization such as your bosses, subordinates, colleagues and other people who support your company like suppliers, customers and other stakeholders. This skill may be the thin line which divides the survivors and the castaways in the organization.

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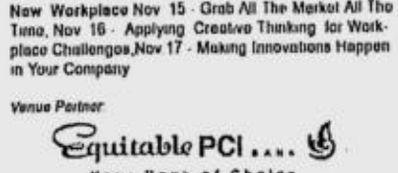

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3rd Quarter Run: Tools for the New Workplace July 26 - Knowledge Management: Turning Knowledge Into Organizational Wisdom, July 27 - Using Heart for Successful Change Efforts, July 28 - Strategic Alliance Building: Collaborating With Your Competitors and Winning
4th Quarter Run: Breakthrough Thinking for the New Workplace Nov 15 - Grab All The Market All The Time, Nov 16 - Applying Creative Thinking for Workplace Challenges, Nov 17 - Making Innovations Happen in Your Company

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From page B1

grants Sunday in March. The other dioceses of Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, and Quezon have been invited. Delegations are coming from as far as Marinduque and Mindoro, said Fr. Jojo Gonda, Director of the Lipa Archdiocesan Commission on Migrants & Mission (Lacmmi), who is the proponent of the event.

Special tour packages arranged for the convenience of the visitors will promote tourism not only in Batangas but also in the Southern Tagalog region.

Concerns of their 150,000 *kababayan* migrant families—the third biggest in the country—or an estimated 900,000 dependents will be addressed. Various church organizations like the Commissions on Family Life Apostolate and Youth, NGOs like the Bantay Bata, and even government entities like the POEA, Owwa, COF, Tesda and the DOH will also be providing support. There will be talks on topics about the social, economic, cultural and political aspects of integral human development with spirituality at its core.

The festivities at the Provincial Sports Complex and Trade Exhibition Center in Bolbok, Batangas City include a 'Buhay Asenso Trade and Job Fair' for corporate sponsors to join, a Producers Market or *tiangge*, product clinics for micro-entrepreneurs, free calls, medical and dental consultation, a talent competition, and sports tournaments. More than 10,000 parishioners from the different vicariates alone are coming to attend. Also participating are major companies from the insurance, telecommunications, property, banking, food, pharmaceutical and other industries.

Getting the youth to assume greater ownership of the environment.

Building a network ...

From page B1

said they were able to establish a regional organization in Northern Luzon, called the Green Flame Alliance, which aimed to encourage more young people to getting involved in environmental projects. Like John Rex, Ryan is also into mangrove rehabilitation and reforestation.

Ryan is preparing for the launching of another project, "Oplan Baterya," a campaign that calls for the proper disposal of vehicle batteries.

Twenty-one year-old Ryan has been involved in community work for years now. As a Red Cross volunteer for seven years, he saw for himself the ill effects of pollution, the illnesses caused by lack of sanitation and improper waste disposal. This experience prompted this med tech student to volunteer his services to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a youth counterpart of the agency's regional technical directors. He thought it was better to address the root of the problem than the effects of it.

"I keep in touch with my fellow envoys here and in other countries, particularly those from India and Indonesia. We exchange ideas and experiences concerning our environmental involvements and of course, we keep in touch as friends," he says.

Lester

His work as a veterinary doctor is no hindrance to Lester's mission to protect the wildlife and help address the problem of environmental degradation through MyZoo, a wildlife conservation NGO composed of young environmentalist volunteers.

With animal health care and education as his expertise, Lester handles MyZoo's community service program and he serves as lead coordinator in various programs of the group.

His BYEE experience, he said, exposed him to the many possibilities he saw in Germany and in the experiences shared by the other envoys that MyZoo could replicate and localize to suit the country's needs. And his BYEE network makes this experience-sharing a continuing process.

Establishing links with local communities, concerned groups and government agencies is the very essence of his group's work at MyZoo, which aims to awaken the consciousness of the general public on the plight of Mother Nature. MyZoo holds educational programs and fora on different topics about the environment. It helps transform Philippine zoos into effective learning institutions that inspire action toward conservation of biodiversity. It also helps in campaigns against animal smuggling and trafficking.

Jeffrey

Jeffrey believes that the steady deterioration of environmental conditions was a result not only of direct assaults to the environment-such as the indiscriminate cutting of trees, illegal fishing and smoke belching-but also of the density of the population particularly in informal settlement areas or the slums. He said government agencies, local government units, business, industry and civil society should put a premium on housing program. For his contribution to the improvement of the living conditions of highly populated communities, he spearheaded the FEU Central Student Organization Pabahay Project which, through a partnership with Gawad Kalinga, aims to rehabilitate an informal settlement area in Quezon City.

Jeffrey recently joined the workforce after earning his degree from the FEU but the project he started, turned over to the student council, continues. His work did not stop him from pursuing his dream of a slum-free world. He recently helped form another NGO group, Volunteers for Change, which is adopting a community in Rizal. Apart from rehabilitating the community, Jeffrey's group will form a cooperative and introduce livelihood projects that seek to encourage residents of the area to veer away from practicing 'kaingin' or slash-and-burn, presently their main source of livelihood.

He says his BYEE network comes in handy whenever he needs help or ideas on how to go about the projects he is embarking on.

Criselle

Criselle's interest is in addressing the public's, particularly the youth's, lack of awareness on sustainable development and in the promotion of green consumerism. She uses her communication skills in spreading the spirit of environmentalism.

In her paper for the program, Criselle said that to promote the spirit of environmentalism and be able to guide others, one has to start with his own consciousness.

At this moment, Bayer offices in many participating countries are again in the thick of things scouting for this year's batch of envoys.

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LOT 5 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 216 sqm. FA. 120sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 16 Marganta Ave., Ereroco Subd., Brgy.Mandalagan
Minimum Bid Price : 583,200.00

LOT 6 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 957sqm. FA: 400 sqm.
Lot 699-B San Juan St., Sum-Ag
Minimum Bid Price : 2,425,500.00

LOT 7 - Lot Only
LA. 200sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 1 Japitana Subd., Purok Sunriser, Brgy Mandalagan
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00

LOT 8 - Lot Only
LA: 933 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase 1,Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,379,150.00

LOT 9 - Lot Only
LA. 933sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,379,150.00

LOT 10 - Lot Only
LA: 851sqm.
Lot 16 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,914,750.00

LOT 11 - Lot Only
LA. 938sqm.
Lot 17 Blk. 8 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase 1 Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,110,500.00

LOT 12 - Lot Only
LA: 2,479sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 2 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase1,Brgy Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 5,577,750.00

LOT 13 - Lot Only
LA: 2,329sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 2 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd.,Phase1,Brgy Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 5,240,250.00

LOT 14 - Lot Only
LA: 1,107sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 39 Sta. Clara Drive, Sta. Clara Subd., Phase 1, Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 2,490,750.00

LOT 15 - Agriland
LA: 1,628sqm.
Lot 1-B Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 4,884,000.00

LOT 16 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA: 1,310 sqm.
Lot 610, San Roque St Sum-Ag
Minimum Bid Price : 589,500.00

LOT 17 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 8,394 sqm.
Lot 663 Int. Portion Of Purok Kaingin, Brgy. Punta Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,511,250.00

LOT 18 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA. 225 sqm.
Lot 15-A, Blk 24, Purok Mahimayaon, Brgy. Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 160,000.00

LOT 19 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 360 + 360 = 720sqm.
FA: 1,334sqm.
Lot 406-B-26 & 29, 13Th St., Brgy. 4
Minimum Bid Price : 5,453,500.00

LOT 20 - Lot Only
LA: 510sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Rd. & 101 St., Greenplains Subd., Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 969,000.00

LOT 21 - Lot Only
LA: 510sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Road & 101 St.,Greenplains Subd.,Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 969,000.00

LOT 22 - Lot Only
LA. 510sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Road & 101 St.,Greenplains Subd.,Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 1,453,500.00

LOT 23 - Lot Only
LA. 510sqm.
Lot 27 Blk 1 Alijis Murcia Road & 101 St.,Greenplains Subd.,Singcang
Minimum Bid Price : 1,071,000.00

LOT 24 - Lot with fully depreciated improvement
LA. 1,065sqm.
Lot 31 Alunan Ave., Brgy. 39 Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price : 3,727,500.00

LOT 25 - Lot with fully depreciated improvement
LA: 1,062sqm.
Lot 43 Osmeña Ave., Brgy. 39 Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price : 2,230,200.00

LOT 26 - Agriland
LA: 2,243sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 6,280,400.00

LOT 27 - Agriland
LA. 1,937sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 6 Circumferential Road, Sta. Clara Subd., Brgy Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 5,423,600.00

LOT 28 - Lot Only
LA. 240sqm.
Lot 4 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 29 - Lot Only
LA. 240sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 30 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 31 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 32 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 33 - Lot Only
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 524,400.00

LOT 34 - Lot Only
LA. 240sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 26 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 441,600.00

LOT 35 - Lot Only
LA. 760sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 14 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,398,400.00

LOT 36 - Lot Only
LA 760sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 14 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,398,400.00

LOT 37 - Lot Only
LA: 760sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 14 San Pedro Ave., Sta. Clara Subd. (West), Brgy. Banago
Minimum Bid Price : 1,398,400.00

LOT 38 - Lot Only
LA. 1,038sqm.
Lot 37 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 1,670,900.00

LOT 39 - Lot Only
LA. 1,065sqm.
Lot 38 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 1,715,000.00

LOT 40 - Lot Only
LA: 1,039sqm.
Lot 39 Blk 5 Amelia St., Villa Valderrama Subd., Brgy Bata
Minimum Bid Price : 1,673,000.00

LOT 41 - Lot Only
LA: 300+300= 600sqm.
Lot 8 & 10, Blk 8, Purok Sampaguita Iii, Brgy. Singcang-Airport
Minimum Bid Price : 144,000.00

BAGO

LOT 42 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 10,000 sqm. FA. 900 sqm.
Lot 14-A Bago-Ma-Ao Road, Brgy Lag-Asan
Minimum Bid Price : 4,326,500.00

LOT 43 - Lot Only
LA 300 + 300 + 300 + 301 = 1,201sqm.
Lots 912-B-2-D, 912-B-2-E, 912-B-2-F & 912-B-2-G Sitio Para, Brgy. Taloc
Minimum Bid Price : 180,000.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 1,236sqm.
Lot 131 Sitio Limbo, Brgy. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 36,750.00

LOT 45 - Lot Only
LA. 725sqm.
Lot 216-A--5-H, Purok Balinghoy
Minimum Bid Price : 203,000.00

LOT 46 - Lot Only
LA: 1,000sqm.
Lot 216-A--5-A, Purok Balinghoy
Minimum Bid Price : 320,000.00

BINALBAGAN

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT AGRILAND
LA. 214,690sqm.
Lot 166 Sima-ilan - Cabile, Bino
Minimum Bid Price : 644,250.00

CADIZ

LOT 48 - Lot Only
LA: 200, 200, 200 = 600 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 4; Lot 3 Blk. 4, Lot 4 Blk. 4 Purok Democracia, Brgy Jerusalem
Minimum Bid Price : 76,500.00

LOT 49 - Agriland
LA. 251sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 28 Road Lot 27, Andrea Village, Zone II, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 70,000.00

HINOBA-AN

LOT 50 - Lot Only
LA: 2,279sqm.
3954-B-6-B Brgy. 2, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 204,000.00

ILOG

LOT 51 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA. 518sqm.
Lot 2258 Mabini St., Dancalan
Minimum Bid Price : 349,650.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA 24,324+15,095+10,120= 49,539sqm.
Lot 670, 1341, 1334 Brgy. Manalad
Minimum Bid Price : 659,300.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 87,556sqm.
Lot 1742 Samberal, Brgy. Delicioso
Minimum Bid Price : 893,071.20

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA. 48,443sqm.
Lot 1446 Bagroy, Brgy Delicioso
Minimum Bid Price : 552,250.20

KABANKALAN

LOT 55 - Lot with Improvement
LA 500sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 7 Granada St., Brgy 3
Minimum Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 56 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 500sqm.
Lot 22 Blk. 7 Sola St., Brgy 3
Minimum Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 57 - Lot with Improvement
LA 592sqm.
Lot 23 Blk. 7 Sola St., Brgy 3
Minimum Bid Price : 639,360.00

LOT 58 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 999.50 sqm. FA. 164sqm.
Lot 154-A-2 Burgos St., Brgy 8
Minimum Bid Price : 964,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT, AGRILAND
LA. 90,015sqm.
Lot 2955 Candiacap-B,Brgy Tapi
Minimum Bid Price : 688,500.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA: 157,462sqm.
Lot 2745 Piasanon 1,Brgy Salong
Minimum Bid Price : 1,204,450.00

LA CASTELLANA

LOT 61 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 700sqm. FA. 159sqm.
Lot 635-A Purok Sampaloc, GomezSt.
Minimum Bid Price : 633,600.00

MANAPLA

LOT 62 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 410sqm. FA. 86sqm.
Lot 91-B-5-G-1 Int. Gallo St.
Minimum Bid Price : 396,800.00

LOT 63 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 973sqm. FA: 148sqm.
Lot No. 186-F-5 Bangga Tuling, Int. Lacson St.
Minimum Bid Price : 584,800.00

LOT 64 - Lot Only
LA: 335sqm.
Lot 91-B-5-E Interior Gallo St
Minimum Bid Price : 142,800.00

SAGAY

LOT 65 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 300sqm. FA. 135sqm.
Lot 19-I-5-A A.E. Maranon St.
Minimum Bid Price : 599,400.00

LOT 66 - Lot with Improvement
LA. 201sqm. FA: 70sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 3 Osterhols Shermbeck Corner Mozart Sts., City Heights Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 279,900.00

LOT 67 - Lot with Improvement
LA 240sqm. FA. 100sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 46 Tupaz St., Extension, Poblacion 1
Minimum Bid Price : 443,200.00

LOT 68 - Lot with Improvement
LA 240sqm. FA 80sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 43 Tupaz St., Aguilar Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 486,400.00

LOT 69 - Agriland
LA 500sqm.
Lot 40 Purok Lerio, Brgy. Vito
Minimum Bid Price : 31,500.00

LOT 70 - Agriland
LA 500sqm.
Lot 9 Purok Lerio, Brgy. Vito
Minimum Bid Price : 31,500.00

SAN CARLOS

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT AGRILAND
LA 106,591sqm.
Lot 650, 630 Sitio Nagutman, Brgy Prospendad
Minimum Bid Price : 96,750.00

SILAY

LOT 72 - Lot Only
LA. 3,211sqm.
Lot 10-F Banana St., Brgy V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,460,900.00

LOT 73 - Lot Only
LA 3,210sqm.
Lot 10-E Banana St., Brgy V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,460,900.00

LOT 74 - Lot Only
LA: 4,024sqm.
Lot 10-G Banana St., Brgy V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,831,200.00

LOT 75 - Lot Only
LA. 4,023sqm.
Lot 10-H Banana St., Brgy. V
Minimum Bid Price : 1,830,500.00

TALISAY

LOT 76 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 180sqm. FA 42sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 33 Zone 12-A Camela Valley Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 555,300.00

LOT 77 - Lot with Improvement
LA: 180sqm. FA. 151sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6 Sta Lucia St., Camela Valley Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 878,250.00

LOT 78 - Lot Only (Improvement not worth appraising)
LA: 180sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 33 Zone 12-A Camela Valley Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 243,000.00

TOBOSO

LOT 79 - Lot Only
LA. 297sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 4 Road Lot Dumdum Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 62,900.00

LOT 80 - VACANT LOT; AGRILAND
LA. 10,275sqm.
Lot 1819 Sitio San Roque, Brgy. Salamanca
Minimum Bid Price : 42,750.00

LOT 81 - Lot Only
LA: 329sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6, Dumdum Subd., Brgy Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 52,800.00

VALLADOLID

LOT 82 - Lot with Makeshift Improvement
LA 108,725sqm.
Lot 1358-G-2-F & 1358-G-2-A Brgy Palaka
Minimum Bid Price : 1,772,000.00

VICTORIAS

LOT 83 - Lot with Improvement
LA 300sqm. FA 91sqm.
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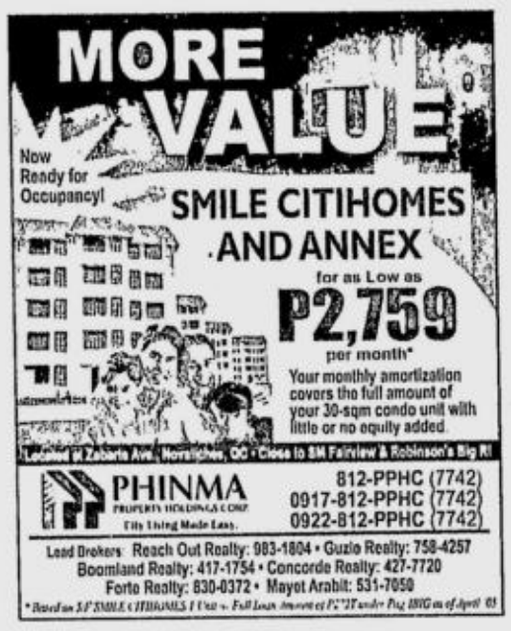

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50-70 Sqm Lots 4 Sale Brgy Saperya Binangonan Con 7520893/09178986809

Calamba PaloAlto 3Ha. Res. Lot P700m² 8425621 09189216064

★AYALA FERNDALE QC 219m² 939-0245

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LBaguio SJ 410sqm 9418525

near LRT TAYUMAN 108m² 2.3M 9384447

Pasig 100-3000m² 0917-7938664

Res Lots Binangonan Rizal 8435555 / 09178986809

Rosario Psg 2000m² 6413650

RUSH LOT 300SQM. PARKWAY ROOSEVELT Q.C. 733 7767/69

RUSH LOT 411SQM NEAR C3 BANAWE Q.C. 734 25/03/04

MEMORIAL LOT

ETERNAL GARDEN 12 LOTS W/ NICHE PRIME 9293387

LOY PO GARDEN ESTATE P945T 8386645;09164834182

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PQUE THSE 1BR 8T 8017079

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51 FORD 2DR 09163273003

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2000 S320 black 0425537

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STAR MALL
EDSA cor. SHAW BLVD.
February 25 & 26, 2006
UNDER INT'L. JUDGES
Ms. CONNIE REDHEAD (AUST)
Mr. MYRON ARTHUR (AUST)
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Stamatelaky Family Reunion recently held at Paranaque City on Feb. 12, 2006. The First Philippine Reunion was sponsored by Alexander & Alino Stamatelaky of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. During their visit in the Philippines. A total of 65 family members attended.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JULITA C. SANTIAGO was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 122; Page No. 25; Book No. 61; Series of 2006 before Atty. Richard L. Anolin Notary Public for City of Manila
PDI-Feb 26, Mar 5&12,2006

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MARCELINO CRUZ & JUANA G. FRANCISCO WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY THEIR HEIRS W/ WAIVER OF RIGHTS PER DOC. 184, PAGE 37, BOOK XLIII, SERIES OF 2006 NOTARY PUBLIC REYNALDO BERNARDO OF RIZAL. (PDI- FEB. 26, MAR. 5, 12, 06)

Notice is hereby given that the late Leonila Nacnac Calaunan has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. #161, Page #34,Book #II, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Corazon G. Figueroa of Las Pinas City (PDI Feb. 26, Mar.5&12'06)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Wilfredo D. Cerda was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights by and among his heirs as per Doc 1172, Page 235, Book 52, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty Nestor C. Rivera for Angono Rizal
(PDI-Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Rupert A. Reparot has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs before Notary Public Danilo Q. Leyble of Antipolo City as per Doc.# 168, Page# 34, Book# V, Series of 2006. (PDI-Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1334 for 173 shares;#1563 for 2,964 shares;#2080 for 627 shares;#2515 for 1,682 shares;#3287 for 1,129 shares;#3752 for 677 shares;#4225 for 4,545 shares & #5949 for 10,096 shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE ITF CHRISTINE DEE were reported lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1335 for 345 shares;#1564 for 2,964 shares;#3288 for 1,191 shares;#3753 for 714 shares & #4226 for 4,794 shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE ITF FREDERICK DEE were reported lost. If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI- Feb. 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert.#1329 for 518 shares;#2073 for 103 shares,#2608 for 310 shares;#3282 for 186 shares;#3747 for 111 shares;#4220 for 749 shares & #4750 for 197 shares issued in the name of GILBERT DEE were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificated will be issued.
(PDI- Feb 12, 19 & 26, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that Commonwealth Foods, Inc. Cert. No.5948 for Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Nine(14,309) shares issued in the name of REGINA YUI DEE was reported lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Feb. 12 19 & 26, 2006)

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me, I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen

In Loving Memory
on the
20th Death Anniversary
of

NEMESIO I. YABUT

1925 – 1986

Masses will be offered today, February 26, 2006 at the following churches:

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH — Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City	5:30 A.M
STS. PETER & PAUL CHAPEL — P. Burgos St., Makati City	6:00 A.M.
SACRED HEART CHAPEL — San Antonio Village, Makati City	6:00 A.M.
SANCTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH — Forbes Park, Makati City	12:15 Noon
STO. NIÑO DE PAZ CHAPEL — Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City	12:00 Noon
NUESTRA SRA. DE GRACIA PARISH — Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:15 P.M.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI CHAPEL — Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:00 P.M.
ST. ANDREW, THE APOSTLE PARISH — Bel-Air II, Makati City	6:30 A.M.
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH — Pasay Road, Makati City	7:00 P.M.

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HIS EMINENCE, GAUDENCIO B. CARDINAL ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

The **clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila**; bereaved brother & sister-in-law: **Redentor** & **Teresita**; nieces; nephews; grandchildren; relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. FR. LORENZO JORGE EGOS

who died on February 24, 2006 at the age of 71 .

His remains now lie in state at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M., at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City with His Eminence, Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales, D.D., as the main celebrant. Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery, C-3 Highway corner 7th Street, Kalookan City.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

LOURDES BEATO FERRER

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 23, 2006

She is survived by her loving husband **German**; children **Eymard** & **Yeyet, Ricci** & **Sean, Hazel** &**Tep**, & **Paolo**, grandchildren, sisters & relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

Her remains lie in state at the Love Chapel, St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2006 at The Heritage Memorial Park Crematory after 11 AM Mass.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

In loving memory of a devoted Husband, a loving father and dedicated friend.
On the 1st Death Anniversary of
Mr. RODEO PAGDANGANAN JR.
Sept. 12, 1965 – Feb. 26, 2005
Holy masses will be held at the following churches on Feb. 26, 2006
- St. Xavier Catholic Church, Seaside Ca. USA
- San Carlos Mission Church, Monterey Ca. USA
- Sacred Heart Parish, Kamuning, Q.C.
- Perpetual Help Church, Proj. 8, Q.C.

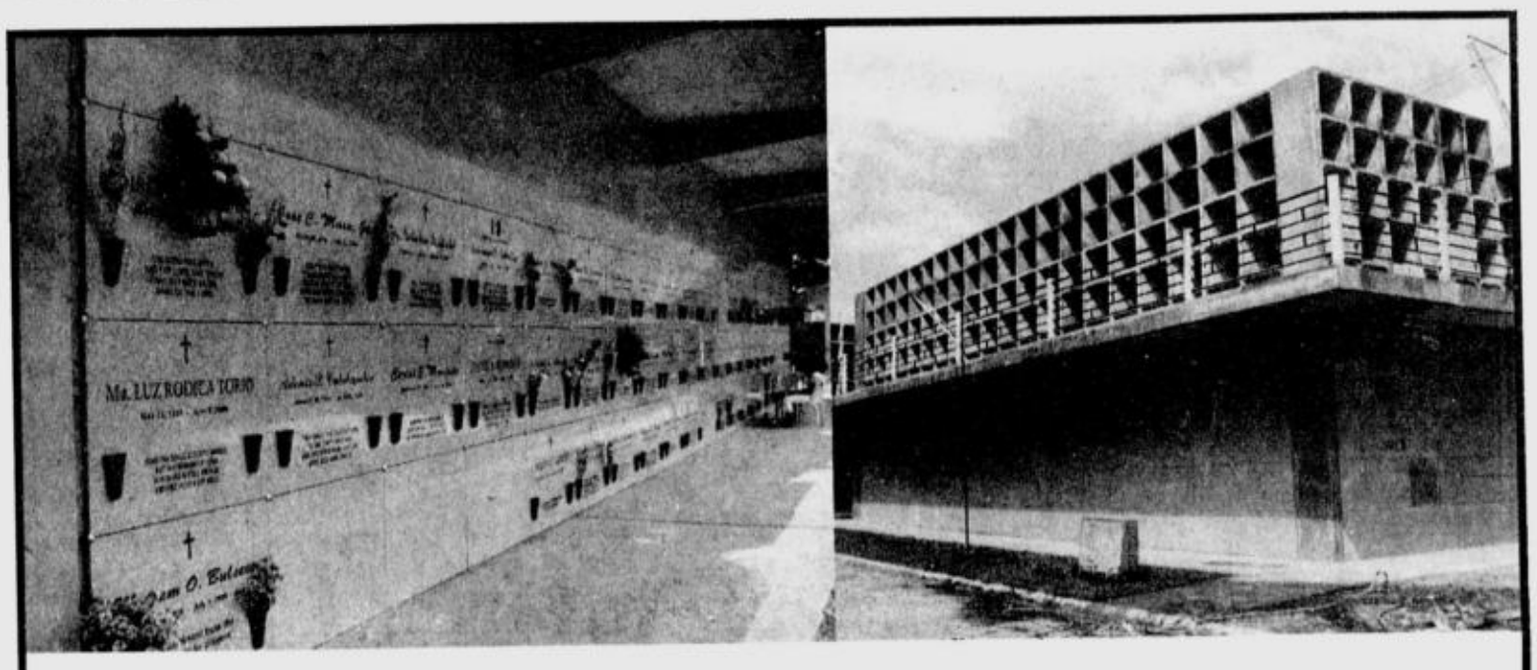
With Love,
May (wife), April (daughter), Daddy, Mommy, Brother & Sister

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ● Copy of Death Certificate ● Any identification document (ID)



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Agents and Brokers are welcome.

CLASSIFIEDS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late EVANGELINA L. CASANOVA was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 468, Page No. 95, Book No. XXI, Series of 2006 Before Atty. Eduardo E. Dela Cruz, Notary Public of Makati City.
-PDI–Feb. 26, March 5 & 12, 2006-

KES 3rd Grand Alumni Homecoming

ATTENTION KAMUning Elementary School alumni! Join the Grand Alumni Homecoming on April 1, 2006, Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at the school grounds. Have a nostalgic tour of your school, revive old friendships, and have lots of fun! For more details, please call: Cristy – 922-6632 / 0917-384-7452; or Pilar – 845-4991 / 0921-984-6633.

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If you're looking for a real profitable concept, attend our **FREE** Business Briefing on **March 1, 2006** Wednesday, 6:00pm at Function Rooms 1-4 Ground Floor, Asian Institute of Management, Paseo De Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

BE THERE AND REALIZE YOUR DREAMS!

Interested parties for Visayas & Mindanao may send email to: **millions_2006@yahoo.com**

More Classified Ads on Pages A2, A4, A8, A9, B2 & B6

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5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave.,
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Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education Central Office through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for

PACKAGE/DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	Date / Time / Venue		PRICE OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS (non-refundable)
		PRE-BID CONFERENCE	DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION/ OPENING OF BIDS	
Supply and Delivery of 70 Sets Computer Packages (PC Server, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), Laser Printer and Network Peripherals) for the DepED-GSIS Service Records Updating Project	4,117,155.00	March 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M., Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave. Pasig City	March 20, 2006, 2:00 P.M., Bulwagan ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave. Pasig City	Php 2,000.00

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Room 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on February 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical, and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Late bid shall be rejected.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http//www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurmentservice.gov.ph or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 636-65-43 or Fax No. 636-65-42.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR
BAC Vice Chairman

(PDI – Feb. 19 & 26, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
National Irrigation Administration Regional Irrigation Office No. 4
Pila, Laguna

OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project
(ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

February 20, 2006
World Bank/IBRD
Loan. No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Tanyag, Municipality of Calintaan, Province of Occidental Mindoro. The bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries ad defined in the Guidelines, Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 4, implementing partner of Department of Agrarian Reform for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Construction of Gutad Communal Irrigation Project** under **Contract No. RIIRR 06 184 03 NDT-OM**

Project Duration: 300 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: Php 7,500.00
Minimum Bid Security: Php 480,000.00
Bid Closing Date: April 3, 2006 at 1:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

	Major Work Items	Percent of Total
I	DIVERSION WORKS	28.60%
II	SETTLING BASIN	5.66%
III	CANAL STRUCTURE	61.43%
IV	TERMINAL FACILITIES	0.43%
V	CANALIZATION	1.06%
VI	DRAINAGE SYSTEM	0.30%
VII	WAREHOUSE	0.42%
VIII	MOBILIZATION/DEMOBILIZATION	2.10%

Minimum Equipments Required

Dump Truck, 4-6 cu.m. capacity (2 units) – owned; Backhoe Excavator, Crawler Type (1-unit) – owned; Vibratory Plate Compactor (2 units) – owned; 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (3 units) – owned; Concrete Vibrator (3 units) – owned, 4" Ø Dewatering Pumps (2 units) – owned; survey instruments and materials testing apparatus – leased/owned.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, NIA Regional Office No. 4, Pila, Laguna starting February 27, 2006 from 8:00A.M. to 5:00P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 7,500.00 for each set. A pre-bid conference will be held at the NIA Regional Office No. 4, Pila, Laguna on March 14, 2006 at 1:00 PM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of PhP 480,000.00 in the form of Cash Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee on a freely convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 4, Pila, Laguna on or before the Bid closing date on April 3, 2006 at 1:00 PM, at which time and place the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The NIA Regional Irrigation Office 4 – ARCDPII BAC, Pila, Laguna, reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) Mr. DANIEL S. BARCIAL
Chairman, NIA RIO 4 BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI – Feb. 26, 2006)

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All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting February 24, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 07, 2006; 3:00 p.m., 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before March 21, 2006; 3:00 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for the contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on March 21, 2006, 3:00 p.m. at the CCP Board Room, 3/Floor, Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives.

The award of the project shall be based on the highest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. : 632-832-3667
632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. : 632-551-5960
Website : www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) NIEVES T. DULDULAO
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – Feb. 19 & 26, 2006)

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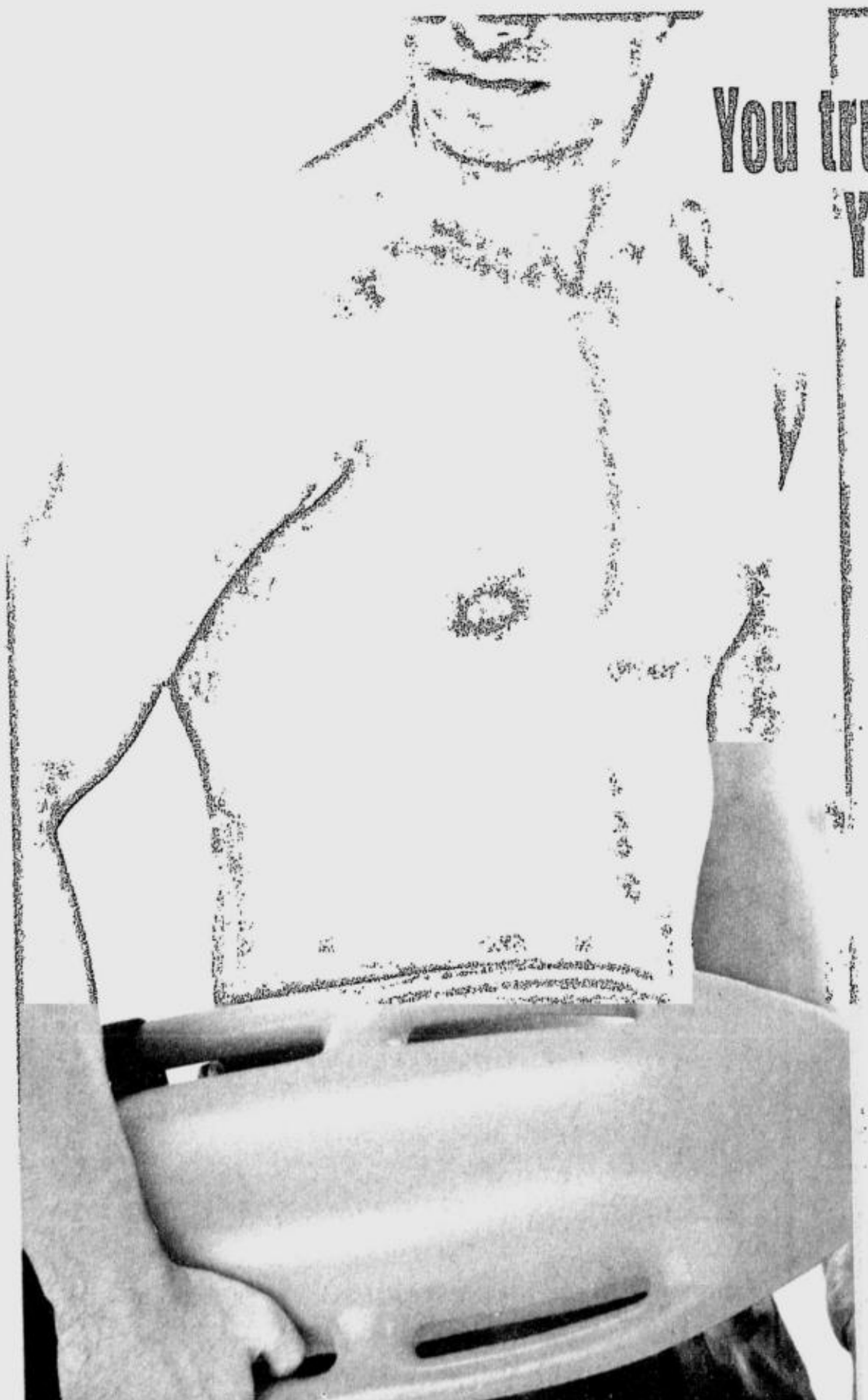

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MARISSA Andal's wall art /C2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Back when we were 'bagets'

Part of the Class '81 of UST High School that held its 25th grand alumni homecoming at the Manila Hotel, the writer looks back to those salad but pontifical days of 'Indiyanan' and 'barkadahan'

THE GANG'S all here! The "Voltes V" and "Charlie's Angels" fans at a post-party event the day after the grand reunion.

By Alex Y. Vergara

BEING STOOD UP IS perhaps as old as time itself, but how we react to it certainly reveals a lot about our age and the generation we belong to. And if a generation consists of 20 years, then people like myself who finished high school in the early 1980s are perhaps twice as dated in their ways as those who came of age in the new millennium.

For example, when was the last time you heard a person chide someone for being extremely late? *"Namuti na ang mga mata ko, wala ka pa!"*

Or how many times have you used the word "Indian" in vain—*"Bakit mo naman ako in*-Indian?"—never mind if Indians had nothing to do with your friend failing to show up?

Apart from sounding so dated, such lines seem so unthinkable in an age when cell phones and text messaging have become as indispensable as owning a toothbrush and brushing one's teeth.

These days, if the friend you're supposed to meet is a few minutes late, you simply text him or her to "make *paramdam*." If he or she doesn't text back, you give him or her a call. If for some reason you weren't able to connect, you can text again to tell him or her not to bother anymore because you're going home.

Of course, you may opt to give that "Indian" of a person a piece of your mind—again via text. It's really that simple.

It may seem surprising nowadays even to most people my age, but in our day, you stayed put and waited for a date no matter how tardy he/she was because you had no way of contacting each other. Instant communication had yet to be invented.

Pontifical University

And as former University of Santo Tomas (UST) High School students, who spent our salad days learning about love, life and various stuff in-between from 1977 to 1981, we had coped with all of the above "dated" experiences firsthand.

Apart from standing by our promise to show up on time, back then we had to specify and agree on where exactly we intended to meet.

Would it be inside or outside National Bookstore? In front of Ali Mall Cinema 1, 2, 3 or 4? The ladies' or the men's section of Cinderella? Under or over Quezon (okay, Quiapo) Bridge? Failure to do so could spell disaster.

The stuff kids today take for granted was the very stuff we held dearly when we were younger. And these included (hopefully, still includes) our ability to speak English properly and in complete sentences (thanks to the evening news delivered in formal English and to "TV Times," without a doubt our generation's weekly entertainment bible) and spell words correctly without resorting to electronic dictionaries and abbreviations.

Not that we didn't get the hang of doing the latter now that our near-arthritic fingers (ouch!) and dimming visions have become so used to "texting." Btw, dnt u thnk thts gr8?! ;-).

We didn't need cell phones to be fashionable then. Not a few of us were already budding fashionistas back then when Calvin Klein was more than just a bottle of his and hers perfume, Gloria Vanderbilt was no mere American socialite, "boho" chic was known as "folkloric," monk shoes had nothing to do with monks and Crayons were something you slipped on and laced up, not coloring tools.

Proto-mallers

Yes, we were able to ride the first wave of the mall culture via such pioneer establishments as Ali Mall and Harrison Plaza. In those halcyon days, the now-defunct brands such as Azabache, Jazzie, Borsalino and Therese were the era's must-haves.

The place to shop was either on Zurbaran in Sta. Cruz or Cartimar in Pasay, where you got all the imported and "orig" stuff—from Ace bags to Sergio Valente jeans, Happy Feet *bakya* to Hang Ten slippers, Charlie to Anais, Anais perfume, Sony cassette players to Sony Walkmans, and hoodie jackets to skateboards.

Speaking of skateboards, some of us dared to risk life and limb and rode those wheeled contraptions in a vain attempt to copy Jill Munroe's death-defying moves. Those who weren't brave enough simply had to content themselves by combing and twirling their hair into a flip a la Jill's trademark tresses.

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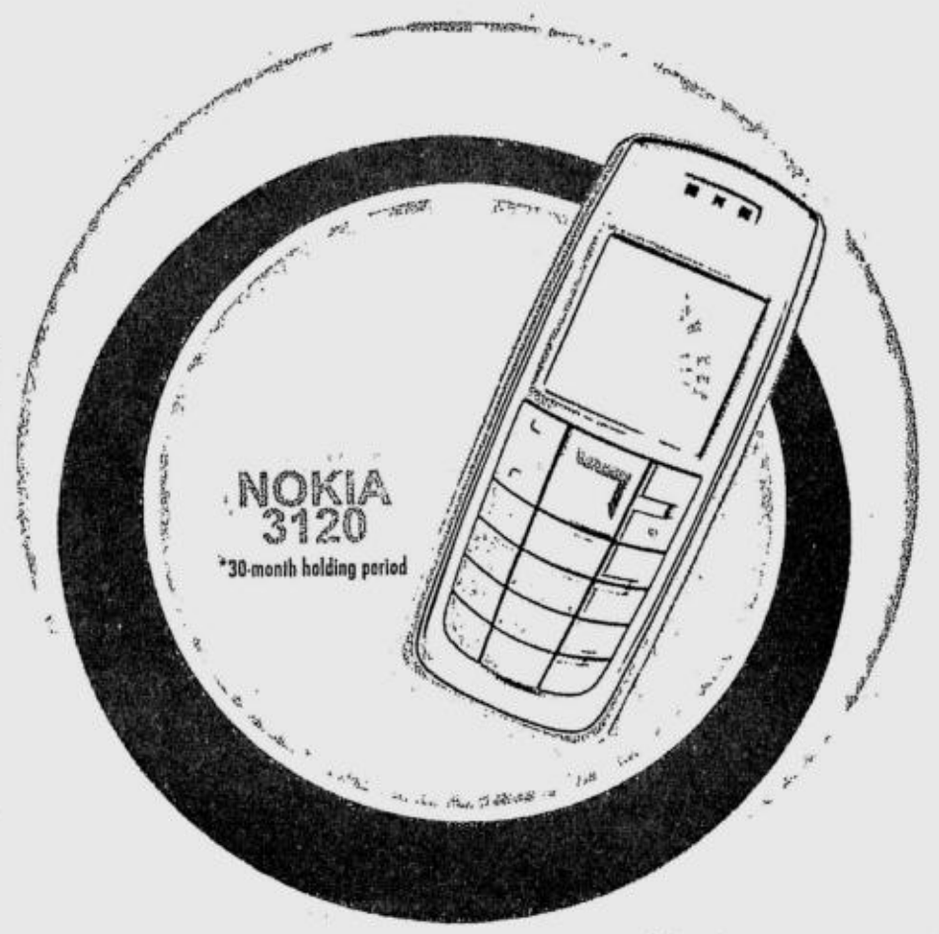

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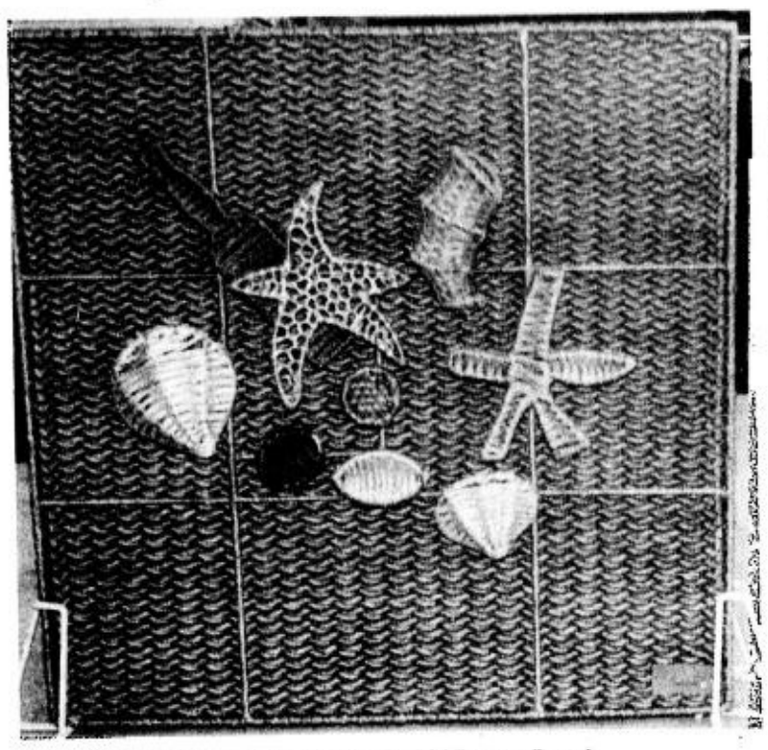
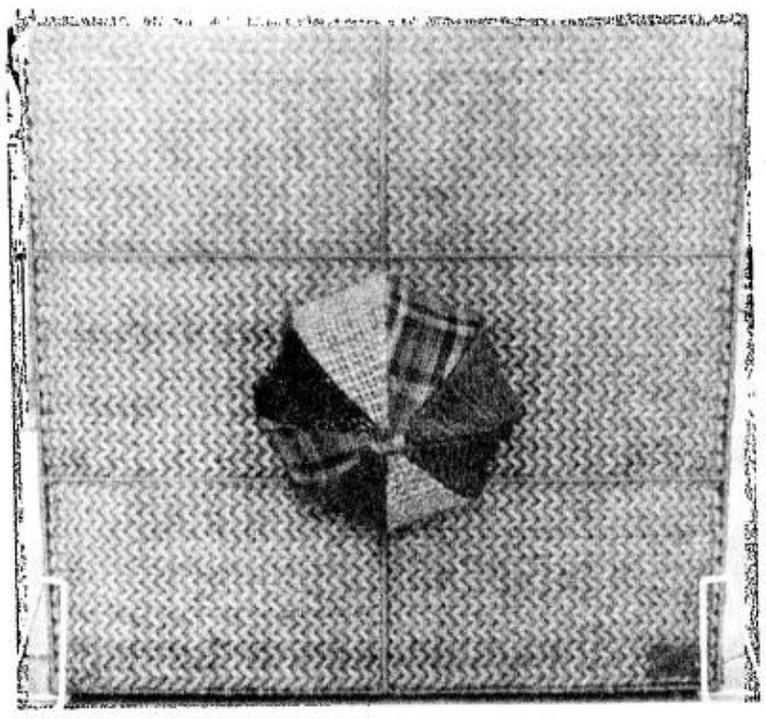
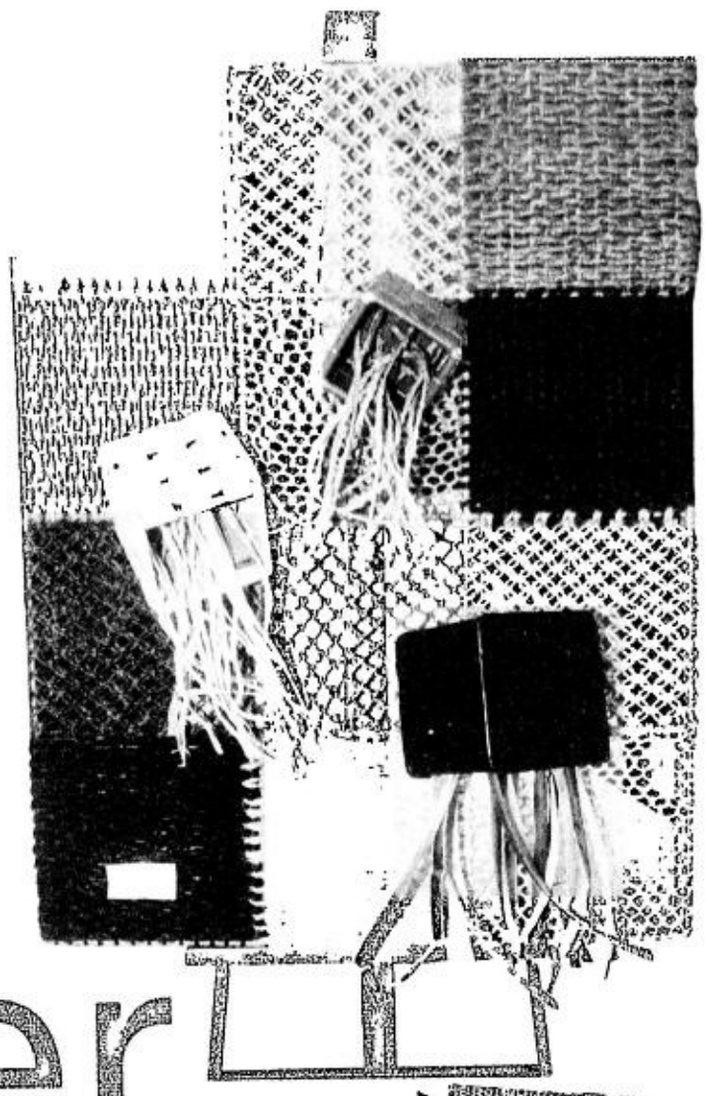


"PACIFIC," 3.5' x 3.5', inspired by Bobbi Brown Beach

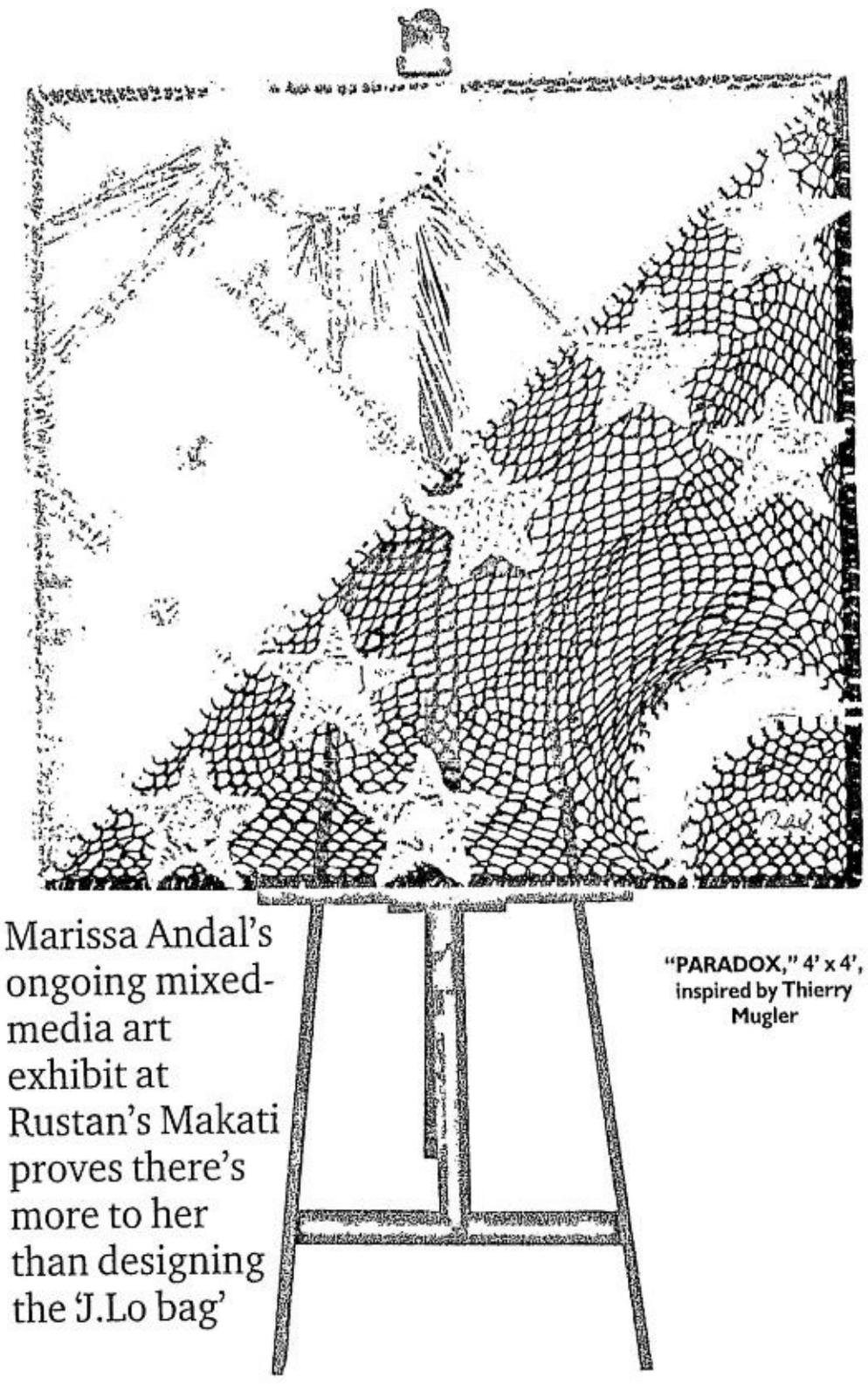


"ALIVE," 3.5' x 4', inspired by Clean



"EVOLVE," 3' x 4', inspired by Diptyque. (Below, far right) "Intense," 3' x 4', inspired by Estée Lauder

Romancing the fragrance of fiber



"PARADOX," 4' x 4', inspired by Thierry Mugler

Marissa Andal's ongoing mixed-media art exhibit at Rustan's Makati proves there's more to her than designing the 'J.Lo bag'

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

MARISSA ANDAL LAUGHED in resignation when she realized that, yes, she's probably never going to live down *that* J.Lo bag.

Like it or not, the bag made of tree bark toted by the Hollywood superstar throughout the 2002 romantic flick "Maid in Manhattan" is now inextricably linked to the renown of its designer, even as Andal is transitioning into other art forms.

But at the opening of her fiber and mixed-media art exhibit, "Fragrance of Art," at Rustan's Makati last week, the jovial Andal made it known that that evening wouldn't be about her bags.

"I just had two brain surgeries, did you know?" she asked, smiling, which made one suspect she was just joking. Her high spirits belied any trace of recent illness, real or imagined.

Andal, in fact, had a brain tumor that required two surgeries in late 2004.

"It was in my pineal area, my 'third eye,'" she explained. "[When the tumor was removed] I started seeing all these shapes and colors sporadically... [The tumor] was blocking my third eye! I had to let it out. I started doing sketches nonstop."

Her recuperation period would be spent not in her sick bed but at the drawing board.

Stunning

Andal's sketches would later take the shape of stunning fiber wall art pieces, made of the same natural materials—raffia, wicker, feathers, wood, coco shell—as her popular export bags and home accessories. As early as January last year, barely four months post-surgery, Andal had sold her first fiber art pieces to Italian buyers. The artist was encouraged.

Not long after, Andal would exhibit her artworks in various venues—from her Bicol hometown to Greenbelt in Makati in November, where she showed (and sold) 80 mural-size pieces to buyers from Japan and the United States. Her US clients, from Sta. Fe, New Mexico, and Dallas, Texas, will exhibit Andal's works there later this year. A similar exhibit is also slated in France in September.

MARISSA Andal's "new life" breeds her new art.

Andal's show on the ground floor of Rustan's Makati, to run until the end of February, is presented by Rustan's Essenses, the department store's cosmetics and toiletries division, as one of its projects to promote Filipino artists, and Essenses Foundation, which supports various women's causes.

Part of the proceeds from the sales of Andal's art will benefit the programs of the foundation. Purchase of each artwork comes with a bottle of the scent which inspired it.

The artist was tasked to create three-dimensional artworks inspired by scents. Rustan's sent her up to 80 summer scents for inspiration, and Andal went into overdrive.

"I didn't even need to smell the perfumes; the boxes they came in were enough to inspire me!" Andal said, elated. She came up with 57 pieces. "I'm inspired by... the totality of the perfume."

Welcome change

Truth is, said Andal, the woven art pieces were inspired not only by the heady scents of perfume.

"It was love, too!" she said, giggling. "I always said I didn't want to get married. I was always busy, always traveling. But after my ordeal, I realized, I wanted to settle down. When I said that to myself, suitors suddenly came knocking... "

In June, Andal will wed her beau, a dentist. "You see, things fell into place after I got sick. I'm so blessed."

Her shift from designer-exporter to artist has been a welcome change for Andal. "It has been very relaxing. I create according to my mood. I've been quite prolific," she shared. But unlike designing bags, "I'm not thinking I have to sell 100 pieces of this."

Which isn't saying she's not been selling just as many pieces of her fiber art. In fact, her foreign buyers, several of whom were at the Rustan's opening, have been buying her artworks by the containers-full, or up to 100 pieces each.

Andal, however, insists her bag designs differ from her fiber art. "A piece of art is a piece of you... My [goal] now is how to expand it more, how to reach more people and tap other countries."

As for the J.Lo bag, "I really won't be able to live that down," she admitted. "It got so much press! It wasn't my only bag that was used in [Hollywood] movies... but, no, I don't mind at all."

E-mail cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Floral design winners announced

MA. TERESA "BOMBETH" L. ROBLES of Mc Bombeth's Flower Shop in Balanga City, Bataan, topped the Professional Level II category of the 3rd André Awards, at Vibeca Danskul Studio, G/F, AMO Bldg., 92 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City.

The contest was organized by Agrikultura Pilipina, Inc. (Agri).

First-time participant Freddie Quiban of Nene's Flower Shop in Dangwa, Manila, topped the Professional Level I category.

Other winners were: Level I—Anthony Daileg, Milagrosa Flowershop, first runner-up; and Edward Alfred Salvador, Gibs Flowershop, second runner-up; Level II—Joricar Vista, Sonata Floral Masterpieces, first runner-up; and Alfredo Baral, Flowertowne, second runner-up.

The André Awards was conceptualized by Gerry and Gie Bote of Agri, the country's largest producer of anthuriums. It was named after Eduard André, the French botanist who discovered Anthurium andreanum in 1870.

Anthuriums are available at the Agri outlet, at 1613 Laong-Laan St., Sampaloc, Manila (tels. 7411000 and 7416967).

Agrikultura Pilipina, Inc., is at 96 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City, (tels. 4397931 and 4397932).

Flora Filipina exhibit opens

THE FLORA FILIPINA GARDEN Exhibit, the country's biggest horticultural event, is ongoing until March 6, at WOW Philippines Complex, Intramuros, Manila.

It is jointly sponsored by the Philippines Orchid Society, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary, and the Philippine Horticultural Society, which is now on its 30th year.

On show are plants from different parts of the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, United States, Japan, Taiwan, the Netherlands, France and many other countries. Plant sale and auction will be conducted.

Daily lectures are being conducted at the exhibit area, WOW Philippines, until March 6: Basics of Bonsai; Dendrobium and Cattleya Cultures; Phalaenopsis and Vanda Culturers; Tray Landscape, Zen Waterfall, Terrarium making; Fern Culture; Flower Arrangement Demo; Popular Potted Annuals and other Flowering Plants; Pocket Garden Landscaping; Ikebana/Ikenobo Flower Arrangement Demo; Philippine Orchid Species; Euphorbias and Sansevierias; Introduction to Herbculture and Production; Anthuriums and Aglaonemas; and Bromeliads.

Call 4268571 or 9294425 or 9265061.

PJ NEPOMUCENO, Philippine Horticultural Society president, is one of the exhibitors and lecturers in Flora Filipina.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Her love fills her with guilt

DEAR EMILY,

I'm 29 years old, an engineer by profession, single, and never had a boyfriend. We are four girls in the family and are devout Catholics.

When I was growing up, I had an identity crisis. Being a Catholic, I accepted myself as God made me, including my gender. I respect others who have come out of the closet and live the way they want. I have a personal struggle with being straight. I don't want to hurt my family and commit a sin. But I have a crush on people of the same sex.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

I think I look very boyish and my built is too healthy to be attractive to men. I am happy being single and have a lot of friends. But now I have fallen deeply in love with my best girl friend. It's a struggle.

I don't have the courage to tell her. We had a fight and did not talk to each other for almost a year. I thought that would cure me of my feelings but I was wrong.

Her former boyfriend got her pregnant then left her for another girl. When we patched up our differences we became super close again, as if nothing happened. Though I am more in control of my feelings now, I get so jealous when she and her ex-boyfriend communicate. The ex-boyfriend is my officemate.

Why did God let me and my friend become close again when I've prayed to Him to take away the feelings I have for this girl? Does He want me to commit a sinful act? I know it is not a sin to love, but loving the wrong person is.

I am about to tell her the truth but I worry about two things. First, she'll understand but will no longer want to be my friend because of my feelings for her. Second, we might end up being lovers.

If you tell me to see other people, I have already done that. If you tell me to bury myself in extracurricular activities, I've done that, too. What I haven't done is surrender myself to God. My faith in Him is fading. I still believe in Him but I am having doubts about my faith and that makes me angrier with myself.

I'll welcome your harsh words just to ease my pain.

DUMBFOUNDED

Why do many people—you included—think there is this God who's constantly hiding behind bushes ready to jump on same-sex "offenders" and sentence them to eternal damnation? Who created this pea-brained, unforgiving, malicious, dirty-minded God? Where do you find him? Get his cell phone number and I'll talk to him directly.

I don't know about your God, but my God has the intelligence, understanding and knowledge no one among us can begin to fathom! Not in a million years!

And He has better things to do than tap His finger on His cheek and think of ways to frighten people and riddle them with guilt!

You're a girl in love with another girl. Big deal! And so what? Love is love. Let's not put other labels on it. Life is already difficult as it is. The world is getting dimmer with our bigotry, prejudice, fanaticism, narrow-mindedness, and here you are trying to put out the little flicker of light that is making your life a bit tolerable.

If your Catholicism is drenching you with guilt, then forget this girl. But you're single, she's single, and if there's nobody else in the horizon that you are planning to put in misery, what's the problem?

Tell her how you feel and don't make a song and dance about it. If she consents to love you back—great! If she hems and haws then she's probably not into you and it will do you no good to pursue her when her mind is somewhere else. Let it rest for a while.

The important thing is for you to get it out of your chest and be done with it. And while you're at it, leave God out of it. He's too busy minding stuff we mortals can't solve. This, my dear, you can hack yourself. Get it out, get it done and move on. Life is toooo short to be miserable.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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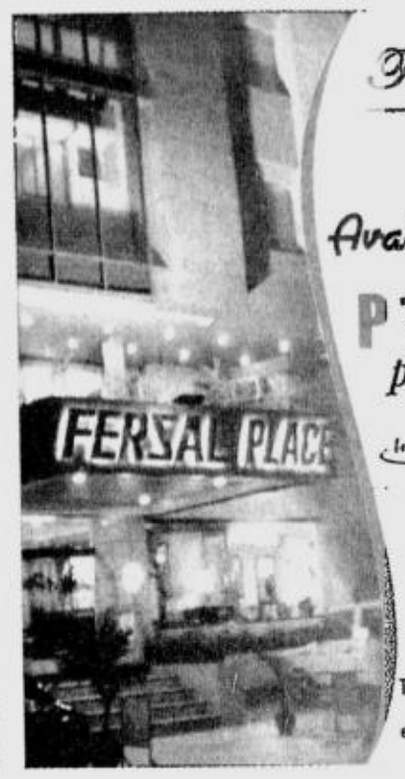

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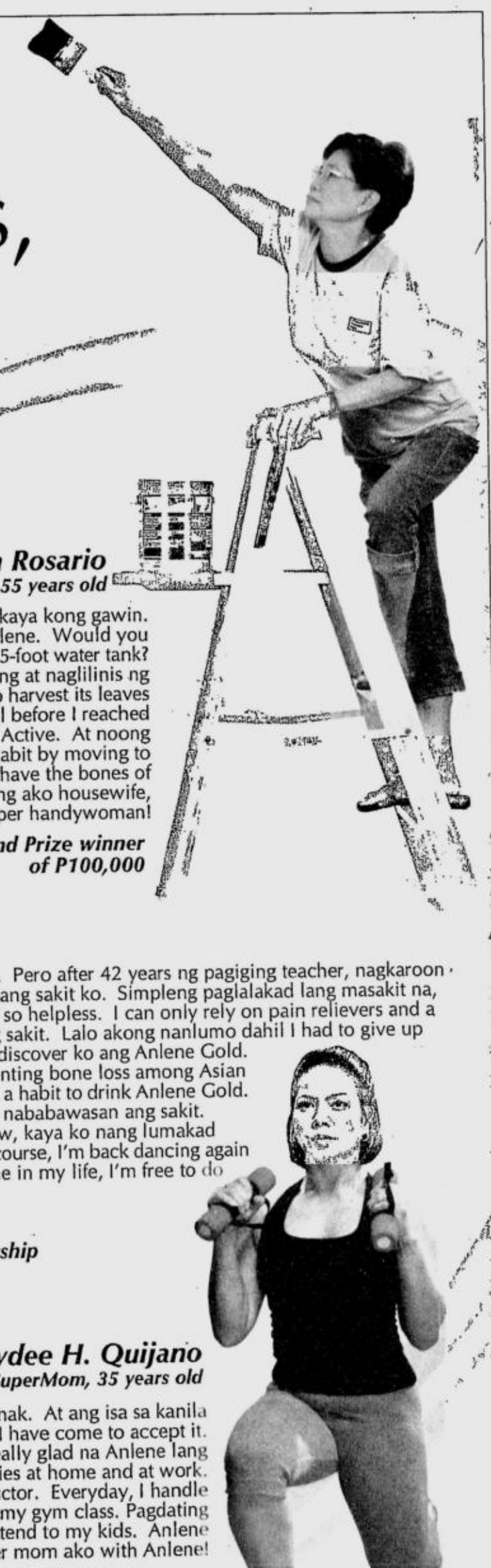
Stronger Bones, Fuller Lives!



Adoracion Rosario
All-around Mom, 55 years old

Sa bahay, kahit trabaho ng lalaki kaya kong gawin. Eight years na kasi akong umiinom ng Anlene. Would you believe that at this age, umaakyat pa ako ng 15-foot water tank? Ako din ang nagpipintura ng aming bubong at naglilinis ng gutter. Inaakyat ko din ang malunggay tree to harvest its leaves and fruits. Lahat 'yan kaya kong gawin dahil before I reached my golden age, umiinom na ako ng Anlene Active. At noong 50 years old na ako, I continued my habit by moving to Anlene Gold. At 53, I was proven to have the bones of a 28-year-old. With Anlene, hindi lang ako housewife, I'm a super handywoman!

Grand Prize winner of P100,000

Natividad Remojo
Swinging Survivor, 67 years old

Mahilig akong mag-ballroom dancing. Pero after 42 years ng pagiging teacher, nagkaroon ako ng osteo-arthritis. Hindi curable ang sakit ko. Simpleng paglalakad lang masakit na, lalo na ang pag-akyat ng stairs. I felt so helpless. I can only rely on pain relievers and a quadrant cane para mabawasan ang sakit. Lalo akong nanlumo dahil I had to give up ballroom dancing. Buti na lang na-discover ko ang Anlene Gold. I read that it was effective in preventing bone loss among Asian women. For three years, I made it a habit to drink Anlene Gold. At mula noon, napapansin ko na nababawasan ang sakit. I started to move with ease. Now, kaya ko nang lumakad without using my cane! And of course, I'm back dancing again with my husband. With Anlene in my life, I'm free to do what I love to do.

2nd Prize winner of P30,000 gym membership

Haydee H. Quijano
Fitness SuperMom, 35 years old

Mag-isa kong pinapalaki ang apat kong anak. At ang isa sa kanila ay may cerebral palsy pa. But that's my life and I have come to accept it. It's physically draining kaya I use all the help I can get. I'm really glad na Anlene lang pala ang sagot sa sitwasyon ko. It helps me carry out my duties at home and at work. Dahil hindi lang ako single mom, I'm also an Aerobics instructor. Everyday, I handle 3 sessions of Aerobics and weight-training exercise for my gym class. Pagdating ko sa bahay, I have to do household chores and attend to my kids. Anlene gives me the energy to do all. Talagang super mom ako with Anlene!

3rd Prize winner of P10,000 sports package and P7,000 gym membership

Anlene IN My LIFE

Real Stories of Strength, Survival & Renewal

FOR STRONG BONES

LAGUNA officials and SM top executives cut the ceremonial ribbon to formally open the new SM mall.

SM president Teresita Sy-Coson and Rep. Uliran Joaquin

JOHNY Cua, José Cuisia Jr., Willy Cuellela, Chico Sy, Gov. Teresita Lazaro and Henry Sy Sr.

HENRY Sy Jr., José Siao Ling and Hans Sy

Santa Rosa gets new landmark

SM CITY SANTA ROSA, SM PRIME'S 23rd supermall, has opened in Barrio Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Located on a 170,740-sq m property, the mall has two levels and a floor area of 88,000 sq m. It will serve customers in Laguna and neighboring provinces.

The mall's design is unlike other SM branches. It celebrates nature and the beauty of country-living.

A mini Butterfly Farm is at the center of the mall. Shoppers will see butterflies in dazzling colors in a garden setting. Celso and Eefilo Dioko, who operate the Dioko Resort and Butterfly Farm, have a booth selling butterfly items as gifts or collectibles.

The Food Court has a row of plant boxes with pebbles as dividers. Shoppers can relax in garden seats with designs of foliage and flowers on the backrest.

The mall's major anchors include the trend-setting and innovative SM Department Store and SM Supermarket, as well as SM mainstays like SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, Our Home, Surplus Shop and Watsons.

Fashionistas have a choice of Bench, Tomato, Oxygen, Mint, Shapes, Penshoppe, Arrow, Girbaud, Sabella, Dickies USA, Collezione, X-Quisite, No Curfew, Artwork, Occasions, Nafnaf, and Hang Ten. Bling-blings are available at Unisilver, Pink Box and Aksesoriz Fashion Hauz; and watches at Timex and L Time Studio.

Also at the mall are The Body Shop, David's Salon, Forever Flawless, Let's Face It, Going Straight and Dermstrata.

Sports buffs can check out Sporthouse and Chris Sports while bookworms have National Bookstore and Christian Book Store.

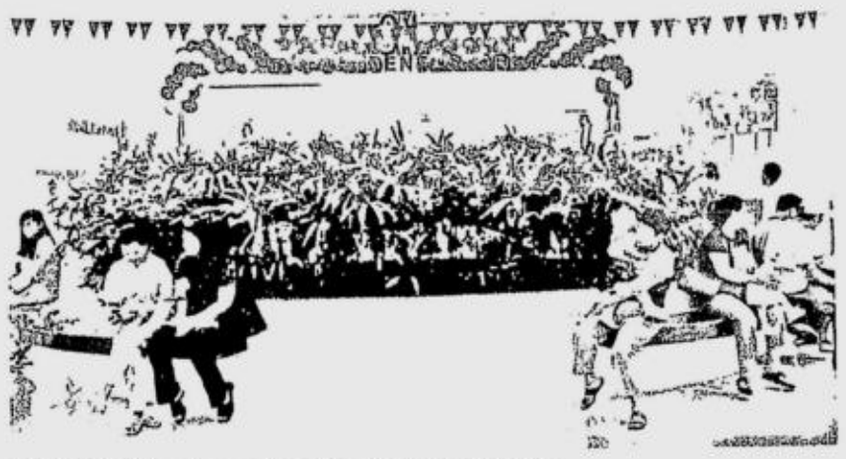
SM City Santa Rosa is also kid-friendly with shops like Enfant Osh Kosh B Gosh, Precious Pages, and Storyland rides. Techies can visit Octagon Computer, Asianic Computer, Games and Gadgets, Silicon Valley, Electroworld, Globe Telecom, DGD Trading, and Twinline Trading.

Dining places at the Food Court include popular international chains like McDonald's KFC, Pizza Hut, Go Nuts Donuts, as well as homegrown food chains like Jollibee, Greenwich, Chowking, Max's, Barrio Fiesta, Congo Grille, Rai Rai Ken, Tokyo Tokyo, Fatchoi, and Kitaro.

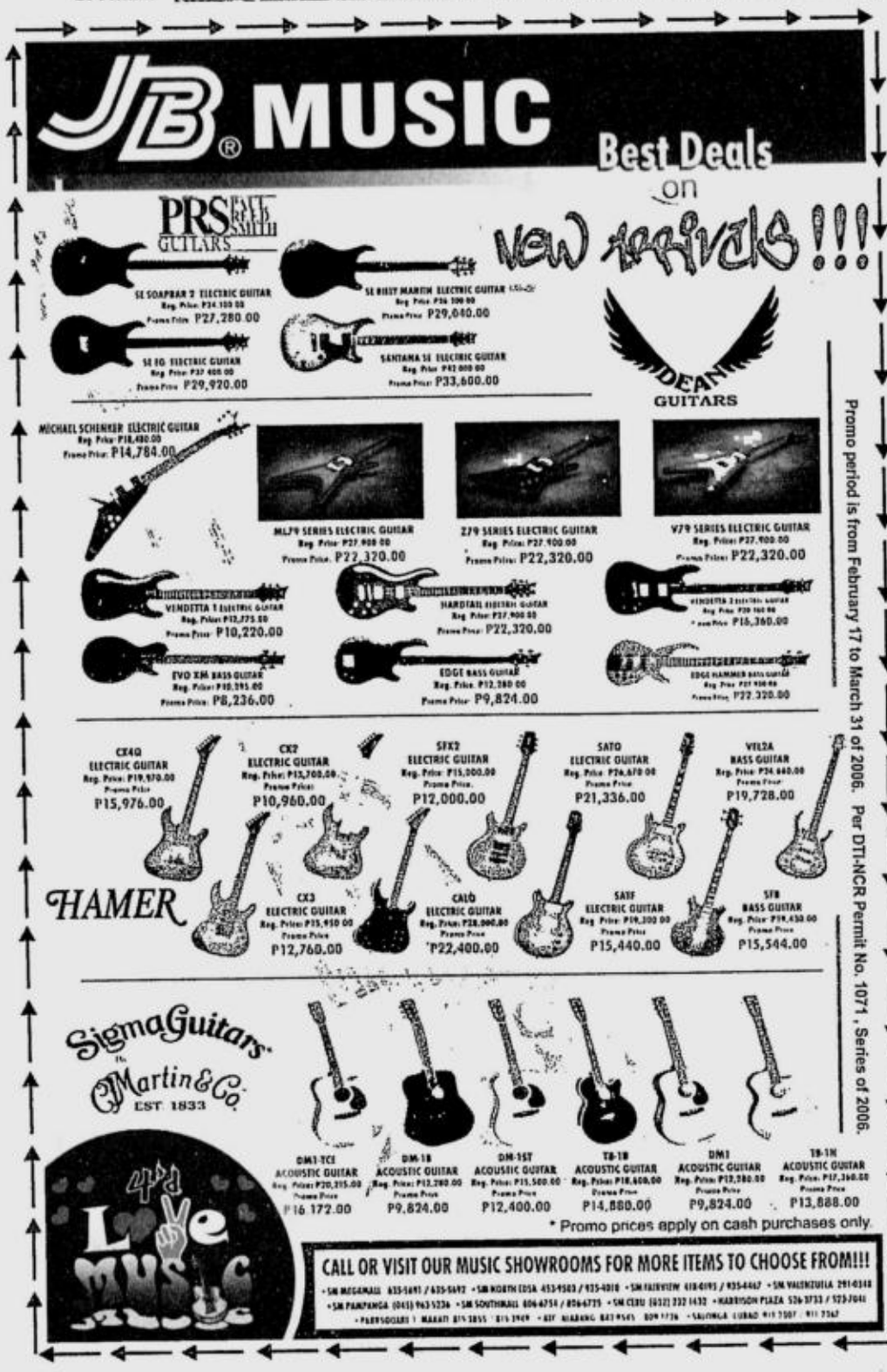
SM City Santa Rosa has four state-of-the-art cinemas and entertainment plaza, and 3,351 parking slots.

Msgr. Alex Amante led the concelebrated Mass during the simple blessing ceremony. It was followed by the ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by both provincial and city officials: Rep. Uliran Joaquin, Rep. Herminia Ramiro, Rep. Victoria Reyes, Gov. Teresita Lazaro, Vice Gov. Edwin Olivarez, Santa Rosa Mayor and Ms José Catindig, and Vice Mayor Frene Arcillas-Nazareno. They were joined by SM Group founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., Felicidad Sy, SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, and SM supermarket SW Herbert Sy.

DIOKNO Resort and Butterfly Farm, the first butterfly farm inside a mall



PLANT-BOX seater makes shopping more relaxing.

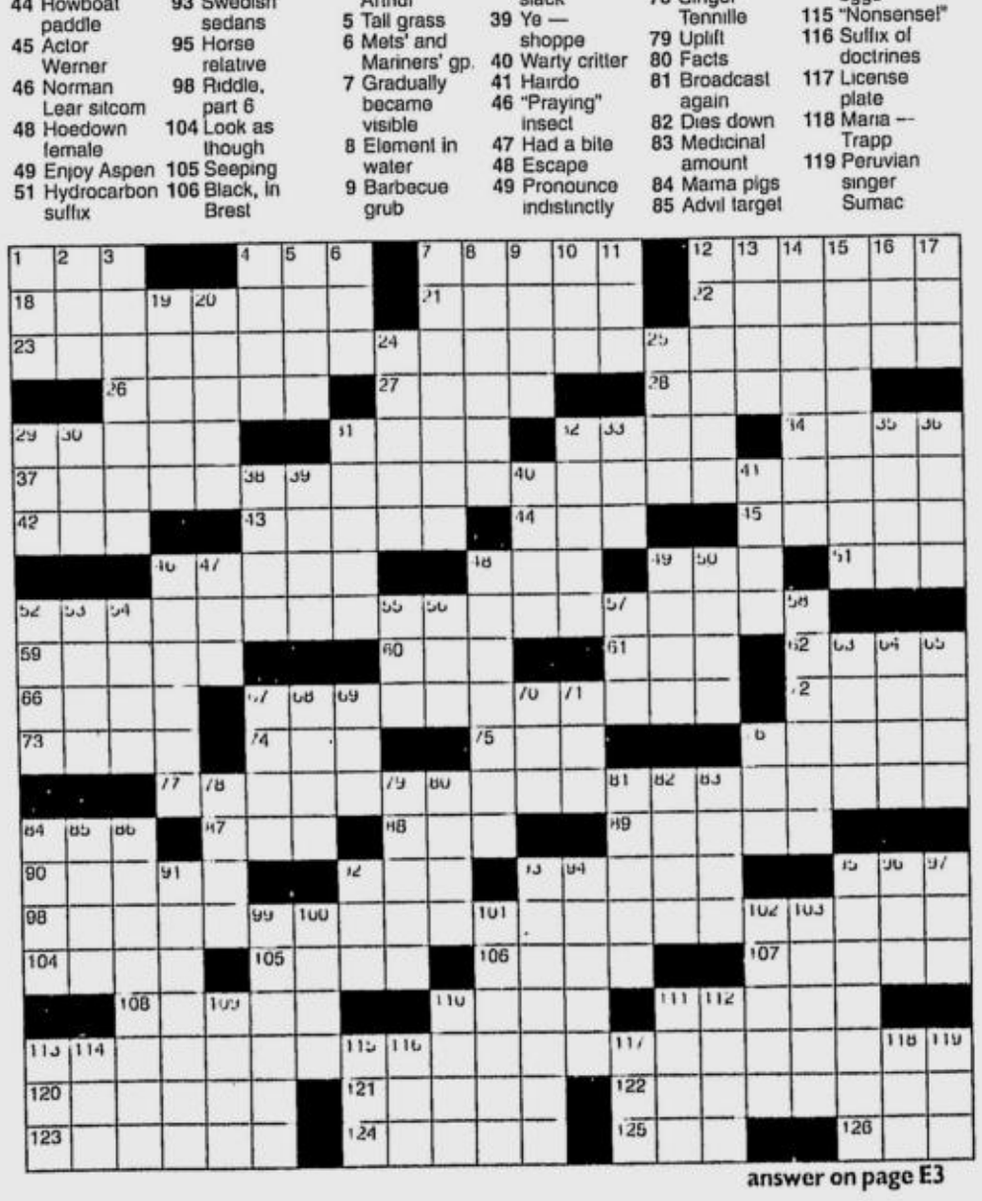


SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — PROBLEM

ACROSS
1 Vital fluid
4 Sleeve filler
7 Strong suit
12 Baseball equipment keeper
18 Coffeecake topping
21 Kind of symmetry
22 For some time
23 Start of a riddle
26 Swung around
27 Identifies
28 Extra
29 Clip, as sheep
31 Record half
32 Arnaz who loved Lucy
34 "This is — ask"
37 Riddle, part 2
42 "For sure!"
43 Woody of "Sleeper"
44 Rowboat paddle
45 Actor Werner
46 Norman Lear sitcom
48 Hoedown female
49 Enjoy Aspen
51 Hydrocarbon suffix
52 Riddle, part 3
59 Carried, as a burden
60 Cheerios ingredient
61 Acorn, e.g.
62 Cavort
66 Lake vessel
67 Riddle, part 4
72 Tennis's Nastase
73 One opposed
74 Caesar's 61
75 Infant's cry
76 Levels (out)
77 Riddle, part 5
84 Cinch — (garbage bag brand)
87 Siouan Indian
88 Calendar square
89 Infamous virus
90 Ray's home
92 In good shape
93 Swedish sedans
95 Horse relative
98 Riddle, part 6
104 Look as though
105 Seeping
106 Black, in Brest
107 Listens to
108 In — fertilization
110 Lay away
111 Giant in PC chips
113 Riddle's answer
120 Borrowed for a fee
121 "Wicked Gama" singer Chris
122 Tiny length unit
123 Completely
124 Soap awards
125 Element like 8-Down
126 Hereditary chain

DOWN
1 Wind dir.
2 The first "A" of NCAA: Abbr.
3 Car radio buttons
4 Court legend Arthur
5 Tall grass
6 Mets' and Mariners' gp.
7 Gradually became visible
8 Element in water
9 Barbecue grub
10 Socrates' T
11 Yale
12 Villain
13 Bowled over
14 Menaces
15 Having avian qualities
16 Suffix with pay or play
17 Osaka coin
19 Communist leader Zhou —
20 Quick route reversal
24 State one's thoughts
25 Maiden
29 Tofu base
30 Tint
31 Beaver State capital
32 Handed out cards
33 Act human
35 Part of S&L
36 With respect to
38 Lacking slack
39 Ye — shoppe
40 Warty critter
41 Hairdo
46 "Praying" insect
47 Had a bite
48 Escape
49 Pronounce indistinctly
50 Model builders' sets
52 "Fernando" singers
53 Twelve p.m.
54 "Shoot!"
55 "Lenore" poet
56 Surfacing gunk
57 — silver platter
58 Minor details
63 Cassini of couture
64 Vietnam's Ho Chi —
65 Butlinsky
67 Coin hole
68 Former Montreal athlete
69 Big wheel, for short
70 Caesar's lang.
71 When doubled, a dance
76 Architect's wing
78 Singer Tennille
79 Uplift
80 Facts
81 Broadcast again
82 Dies down
83 Medicinal amount
84 Mama pigs
85 Advil target
86 Milestone
91 Acknowledge
92 Turkish cap
93 Bratislava residents
94 Parisian lady friends
95 Heloise's husband
96 Guileful
97 — admin (bus. software manager)
99 El — (treasure city)
100 Equine foot
101 Kind of
102 Some IRAs, informally
103 Red as —
109 Waste allowance
110 Shell game
111 New Rochelle college
112 Eggy drinks
113 Half of hexa-
114 She lays eggs
115 "Nonsense!"
116 Suffix of doctrines
117 License plate
118 Maria — Trapp
119 Peruvian singer Sumac



answer on page E3

Back when we were 'bagets'

From page C1

THE AUTHOR, in a black tux by Joey Samson, with former UST schoolmates and Jill Munroe- and Kelly Garett-wannabes during their 25th alumni homecoming

Jill who? Come on, she can't be that easy to forget. Dubbed as the sexiest angel with her big hair and toothy grin, she was pin-up girl Farrah Fawcett's alter ego in the hit TV series, "Charlie's Angels." For a variety of reasons, Fawcett and co-stars Kate Jackson and Jaclyn Smith became every high school kid's fantasy back in the late 1970s, whether he or she was straight or somewhere in-between.

"Little House on the Prairie," "Dance Fever," and other "free" TV shows spiced up our Saturday evenings. MTV, DVDs, iPods, cable TV, "Brokeback Mountain" and "Desperate Housewives" were then like light-years away. Sigh.

Animé freaks

Of course, who could forget the slew of Japanese animated (animé had yet to make it to everyone's cultural lexicon back then) shows that ran from Monday to Friday evenings? During their height, they were simply part of every man-child's whimsy.

I remember Wednesdays and Fridays to be particularly hectic days in our young lives since my friends and I had to race down the sprawling UST campus as soon as the final afternoon bell rang at exactly 5:15 p.m. Why? Because we barely had 45 minutes to catch Mazinger Z and Voltes V. The Bozanians are coming! To the nearest jeepney stop, quick!

Despite the introduction of huge and expensive first-generation video cassette recorders called Betamax, there was (and is) no substitute to the giant silver screen.

We excitedly queued up outside cinema houses on Recto and in Cubao (no multiplexes back then) to watch such popcorn flicks as "Ice Castles," "Star Wars," "Saturday Night Fever," "Superman," "Grease," and "Blue Lagoon," to name a few. Those who loved Tagalog fare lapped up and parroted sound bites from such local potboilers as "Stepsisters," "Bedspacers," "Temptation Island," and "Underage." The definitive teen flick of the 1980s, "Bagets," was yet to be shown, but we in 1981 had long been basking in *bagets* teendom even before the movie opened in 1984.

Since our generation was privileged enough to live through part of the second "Golden Age of Philippine Cinema," we were also exposed to quite a number of memorable Filipino films. "Aguila," "Burlesk Queen," "Ina Ka ng Anak Mo," and the irreverent classic "Kakaba-kaba Ka ba?" come to mind.

Next to the jeepney, our favorite mode of transportation to get to our "happenings" (this was before "gimmick" gained its current meaning of wild recreation) was the ubiquitous "Love Bus." For a measly P1.50, we traveled in air-conditioned comfort to either Cubao or Makati from Escolta, and vice versa. It was certainly a much better deal compared to riding taxis sans "air con" as we headed for the hottest afternoon discos at Where Else?, Lost Horizon and Altitude 49.

Indeed, writing an entire book filled with reminiscences won't be enough. I can go on and on, but I'll be revealing to the rest of the world how old hat and, yes, dated my former schoolmates and I have become.

Well, I don't know about them, but if being dated comes with being wiser and surer about one's self, then I certainly don't mind being old. And if getting old means trading one's youthful looks with the pleasure of finally feeling comfortable in one's skin, then bring on the years!

Being called a wise "thunder bird" ("*tanda*," to the uninitiated) is certainly much better than being lumped together with what kids today derisively call "*jologs*" and "*pasaway*." Such thought consoles when I look back on those days of Indian summer.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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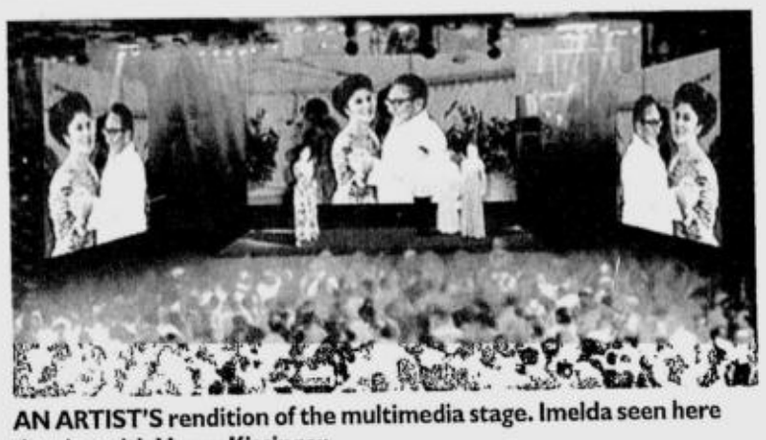


AN ARTIST'S rendition of the multimedia stage. Imelda seen here dancing with Henry Kissinger

Yet another Imelda musical

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

YOU MAY HAVE SEEN "Imelda" the movie, and heard about "Imelda" the musical (staged in Los Angeles, California, May 2005).

Now comes another musical titled "Here Lies Love—A Song Cycle." The story delves into the life of Mrs. **Marcos** in the '70s-'80s from the vantage point of **Estrella Cumpas**, who was supposed to be Imelda's nanny. It will also examine Mrs. Marcos' passion for night clubs, discos and music.

The musical is the concept of former Talking Head band leader **David Byrne**, who wrote the lyrics and music with **Fatboy Slim.** It will premiere at the Adelaide Bank festival this March 9.

Byrne's vision after the premiere is to bring it to clubs. I would prefer to hold my judgment, but the idea sounds so farfetched. Imelda Marcos at a rave? Well, maybe since she is tireless and does not need high-flying paraphernalia to keep up with party-goers. Watch out for critics' reviews in this column in the coming weeks.

Best of the best—Oprah's 20th anniversary DVD. Go back in time to the beginning of **Oprah**'s journey as the most powerful media personality and voice of this generation. In this boxed DVD set, she compiles her show's biggest moments and interviews. Be prepared to cry (over a woman who came home from her exercise to find that her ex-husband had broken into her house and killed all four of their children), laugh (when she and her best friend Gayle lived in a colony), and be astonished (studio contestants winning tons of goodies including a car).

The 6-disc DVD is not just a compilation. Winfrey herself gives insight on why she chose the specific episodes. This is an incredible collection that you can't miss, and please don't buy pirated copies since all proceeds of the sale will go to Oprah's Angel Network, a charitable foundation dedicated to helping women and children all over the world. I purchased mine from Amazon. Visit www.amazon.com for more details.

Must-read—Vanity Fair's (and Tom Ford's) Hollywood 2006 issue. I just got my copy of Vanity Fair's Hollywood issue and it is the most impressive installment to date. The cover shot was photographed by legendary lenswoman **Annie Leibovitz** and styled by none other than fashion icon Tom Ford.

The cover (a first!) features **Keira Knightley** and **Scarlett Johansson**, both nude, and the now nude-shy Ford. The original concept was to have three naked women on the cover but actress **Rachel McAdams** ("The Notebook") apparently backed out on the same day. Ford then stepped in.

Talk about multitasking, the ex-designer even had a hand in choosing who would be included in this month's issue, the criteria being, "was he (Ford) tired of seeing them or did he want to see more of them?"

Some of those who made the cut are **Heath Ledger, Eric Bana, Peter Sarsgaard, Michelle Yeoh, Reese Witherspoon, George Clooney, Sienna Miller, Viggo Mortensen, Natalie Portman** and the past and present loves of **Brad Pitt, Jennifer Aniston** and **Angelina Jolie**—who both had more than revealing shots. The current issue is out in your favorite newsstands and bookstores.

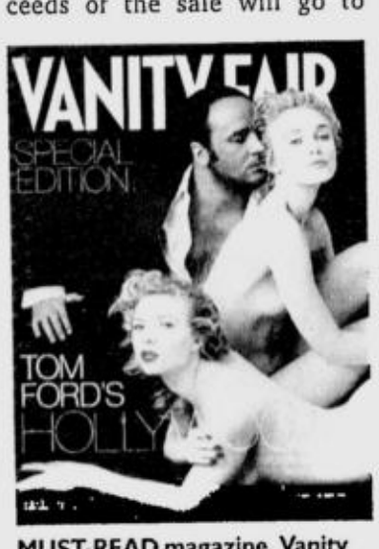
And the Oscar goes to... Mark the date March 5 on your calendar, when the 78th annual Academy Awards or the Oscars get underway. Although the awards night has resembled a Paris fashion show in the last years, this year has been a banner year for excellent movies.

Leading the way are independent films vying for Best Picture such as "Brokeback Mountain," "Crash" and "Capote." The irreverent **Jon Stewart** hosts the show, and watch out for a lot of gay jokes since nominated films "Brokeback," "Capote" and "Transamerica" are all gender-bending films.

Here's my fearless forecast: Best Picture and Best Director—"Brokeback Mountain." Best Actor—**Philip Seymour Hoffman** for "Capote." This is one of the most mesmerizing and memorable performances I have seen in a long time, akin to **Anthony Hopkins**' portrayal of Hannibal Lecter in "Silence of the Lambs."

For Best Actress—hands down, Reese Witherspoon for "Walk the Line." Best Supporting Actress—**Rachel Weisz** for "The Constant Gardener," and Best Supporting Actor, **Jake Gyllenhaal** for "Brokeback Mountain."

E-mail the author at antonsd@philtatler.com



MUST-READ magazine. Vanity Fair and Tom Ford's Hollywood issue. On the cover: Keira Knightley, Scarlett Johansson and Tom Ford

BEST of the best—Oprah's 20th Anniversary now on DVD

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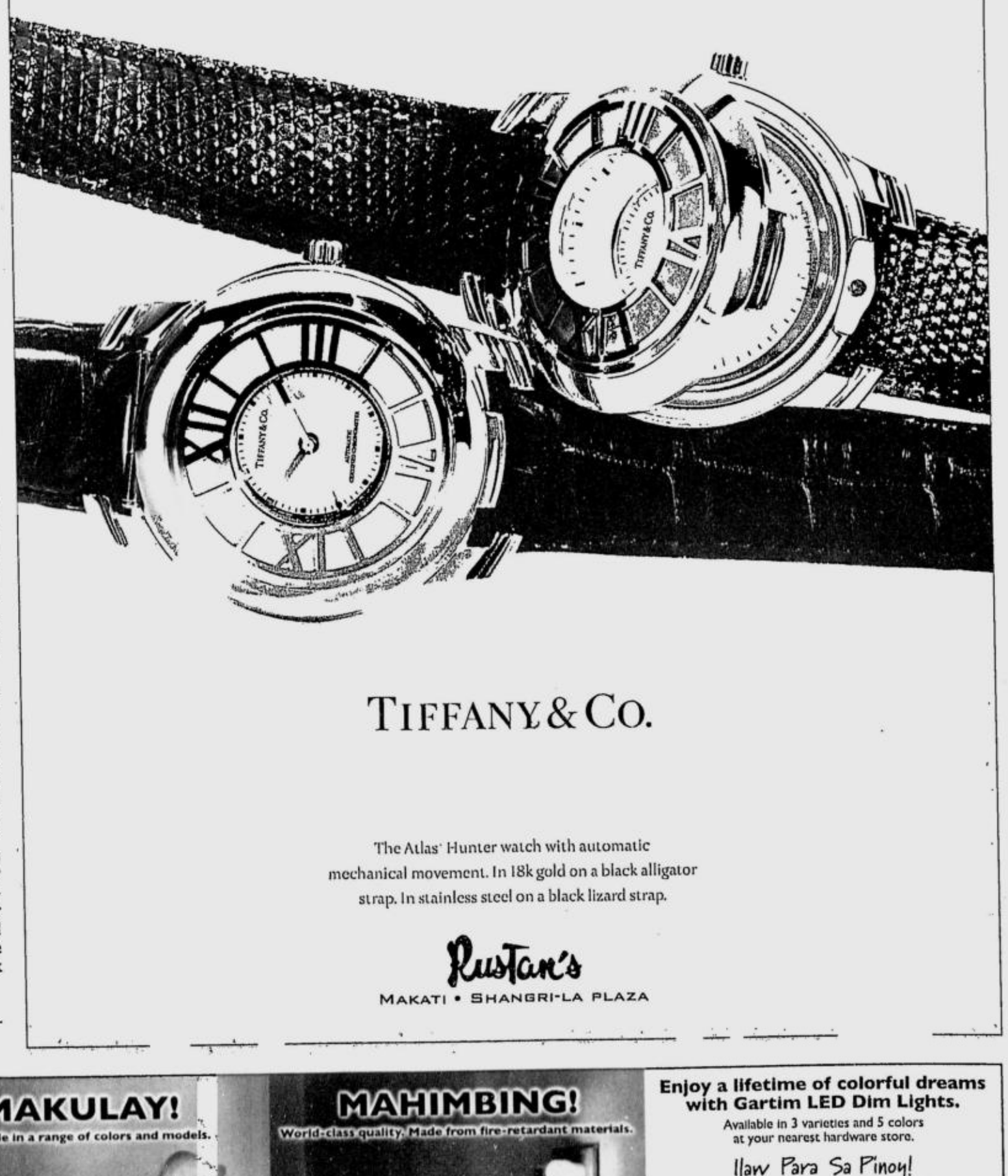

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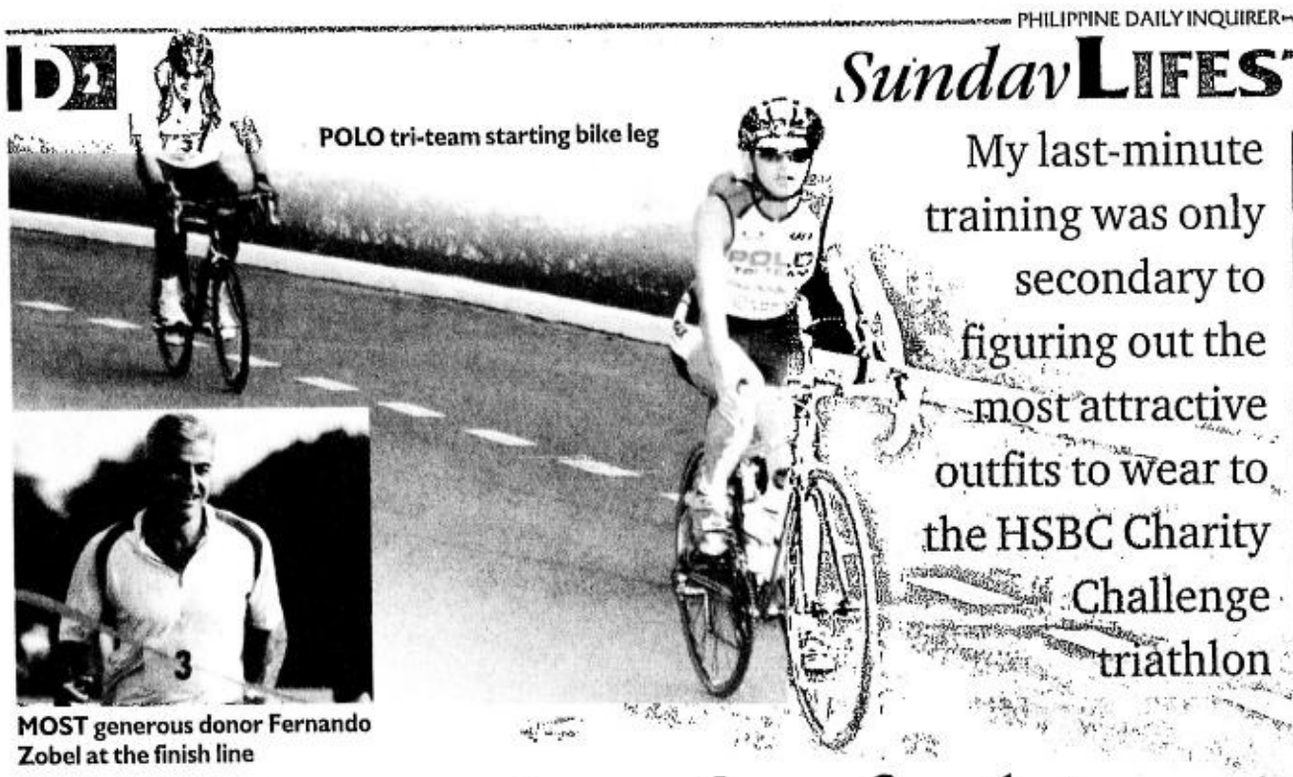


POLO tri-team starting bike leg

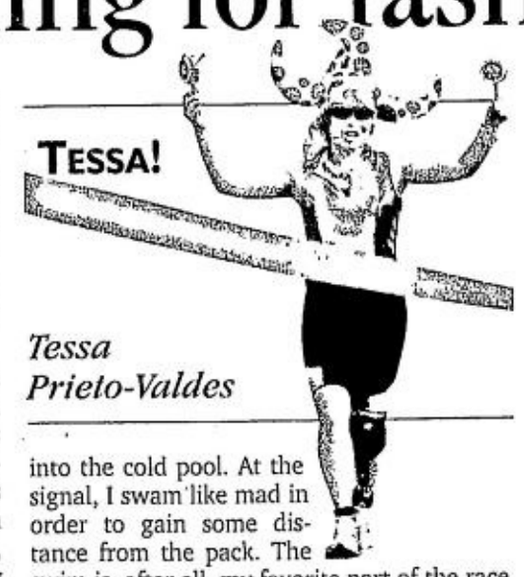
My last-minute training was only secondary to figuring out the most attractive outfits to wear to the HSBC Charity Challenge triathlon

TOP lady finishers Nona Torres and Tricia Chiongbian with the rest of the Polo tri-team

TALL and fit Sen. Pia Cayetano running with Andy Aguila close behind

MOST generous donor Fernando Zobel at the finish line

Running for fashion and philanthropy



Tessa Prieto-Valdes

IN PRIVATE BANKING, ONE philosophy works best: Assume nothing. That's a great line to remember when confronted with the HSBC Charity Challenge, a whole-day, entertainment extravaganza with a triathlon, a bazaar fair and a charity jam.

After more than two years away from the triathlon circuit, I can once again call myself a triathlete thanks to **Warner Manning**. On his fourth annual fundraising event for the education of children in impoverished schools and communities, HSBC's CEO invited a team of sports enthusiasts, including out-of-shape, little-ol'-me, to complete the HSBC Charity Challenge for Children's Hour.

The first big challenge of the event, of course, was waking up at 5 a.m. when I had just gone to bed at 3 a.m. My last-minute, rigorous training was only secondary to figuring out the most attractive outfits to wear that day.

The whole exercise was exhausting but invigorating, knowing that the race was not a competition but an activity for the benefit of six different charities involved in the education and development of disadvantaged children like Stepping Stone Learning Center for Special Children and Gawad Eskwela.

What made this triathlon unique was the presence of personalities who are as committed as Warner to raise funds for the Children's Hour, a grant-giving organization that taps anyone to donate one hour's worth of earnings to programs committed to the welfare of marginalized children.

Sports enthusiasts but not hardcore athletes, they included well-meaning individuals from the private sector like Ayala Land's **Fernando Zobel** and, from government, Sen. **Pia Cayetano**, as well as 30 other triathletes. We were all race-ready at 6 a.m.

JON Santos as Oprah Winfrey

Special event

A sprint triathlon starts with a 750m swim, followed by a 20-km bike and topped off with a 5-km run. Endurance, stamina and speed are essential ingredients to winning. Warner's triathlon was a special one where the racers started in waves and cycling marshals attended to the safety of the triathletes.

This was my type of celebrity challenge, with so many pampering perks. There were more volunteers than participants—it felt just like the ratio of staff to guests at luxury hotels.

Having decongested my breasts of **Athena's** milk before reaching Polo, I was ready to jump into the cold pool. At the signal, I swam like mad in order to gain some distance from the pack. The swim is, after all, my favorite part of the race. Maintaining a steady pace, I am proud to say I was fourth out of the water with only super swimmer, Alaska's **Fred Uytengsu** (is it possible he has dolphin genes?), overtaking me from the last wave of swimmers.

Somehow, between the swim and the bike legs, my transition time took so long that I was the last participant to mount my bike. Getting out of my swimwear to change into Outfit No. 2, spreading Lancôme sunscreen and applying Kerastase leave-in hair conditioner were all so time-consuming. About 20 minutes, to be exact.

My transition area was completely furnished, including a hairbrush and mirror, to make sure I was both race- and photo-ready.

Top gear

Of the three disciplines, the bike portion is the best area to showcase top gear and colorful outfits. My coordinated bike shirt and helmet were both purchased at Power Bikes (tel. 8980377), owned by executive/biker **Beaver Lopez.** In fact, the bike was sent to his Rockwell shop just two days before the race for a "tune-up" with expert biker **Boyet Camba.** My almost-new, pink Monoc road bike has had a two-year, pregnancy-related hiatus.

Biking with excess fat packed in one's rear does not really help. I had a notion that the bigger the bum, the more comfortable the ride would be. But in reality, the heavier the biker, the more strenuous the biking is.

Together with action couple **Ernie** and **Jeena Lopez**, my husband **Dennis** and I were on Burnham Park-speed as we completed six loops of the Fort. Other participants like the Polo tri-team passed our group twice as we leisurely pedaled along.

INQUIRER circulation department guy and Iron Man finisher **Roy Adeva** was my personal bike-guard. He made sure I was safe from the Fort traffic, which kept getting busier as every round got later in the morning. The loop route, passing through Market! Market!, the EuroStar Carnival and JuanMi's Grill, had mild- to middle-difficulty slopes.

After the first round, Roy noticed I was not changing gears, so there and then he gave me lessons on how to shift my bike's gears. Talk about very special attention! For the rest of the bike leg, I would await for his signal to change gears.

With two-thirds of the race completed, we cycled back to Polo to do the run leg. I quickly changed to Outfit No. 3 to match my running shoes and clown cap. Now clearly struggling at the rear of the pack, my only goal was to finish the race even if it meant volunteers carrying me to the finish line.

Hoping to finish before the awarding ceremonies at 10 a.m., I had to pick up the pace and do some running instead of walking. Dennis teased me that I was consuming more calories than I was burning with all the Power Gels I ate.

Sparkling colors

Finally, I completed Warner's challenge dead last, but in sparkling colors. My yoga mentor and cousin, **Jon-jon Rufino**, finished first in almost half my time and was already stretching to prepare for a full triathlon the next day.

Through the generosity and enthusiasm of many individuals, a total of P2.1 million was raised. The Charity Fair in the afternoon featured the creations of Manila's good Samaritans like **Ciara Marasigan** and **Anton Barretto**. Aside from shopping, there were cooking demos by the likes of Sexy Chefs' **Barni Alejandro**. Fashion T-shirts by model mom **Rissa Samson**, **Kate Torralba** and **Pops Fernandez** were all auctioned off.

To top off the affair, a charity jam was held with a mini-concert featuring topnotch performers who all performed gratis, including **Kuh Ledesma**, **Pops Fernandez**, **Pinky Amador** and **RJ Jacinto**.

Warner will be retiring at the end of this year, so I am already wondering what would happen to the Charity Challenge next year.

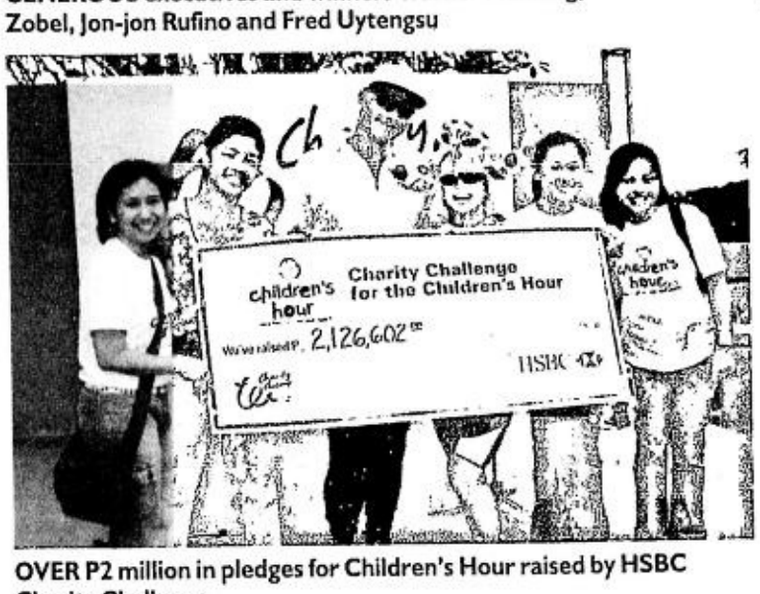
We should all emulate this wonderful man. Let's all "assume something"—that someone will continue to take up the Charity Challenge for Children's Hour!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

CHARITY Challenge finishers Amanda Carpo, Jon-jon Rufino, Sea Princess, Dennis Valdes and Jeena Lopez

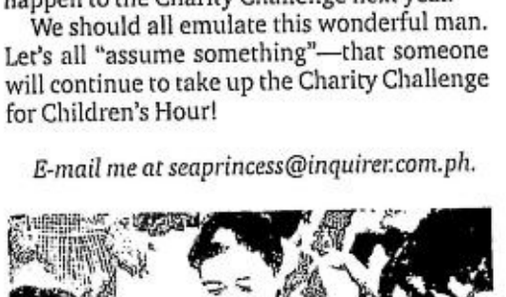
JEENA and Ernie Lopez with their son

GENEROUS executives and winners Warner Manning, Fernando Zobel, Jon-jon Rufino and Fred Uytengsu

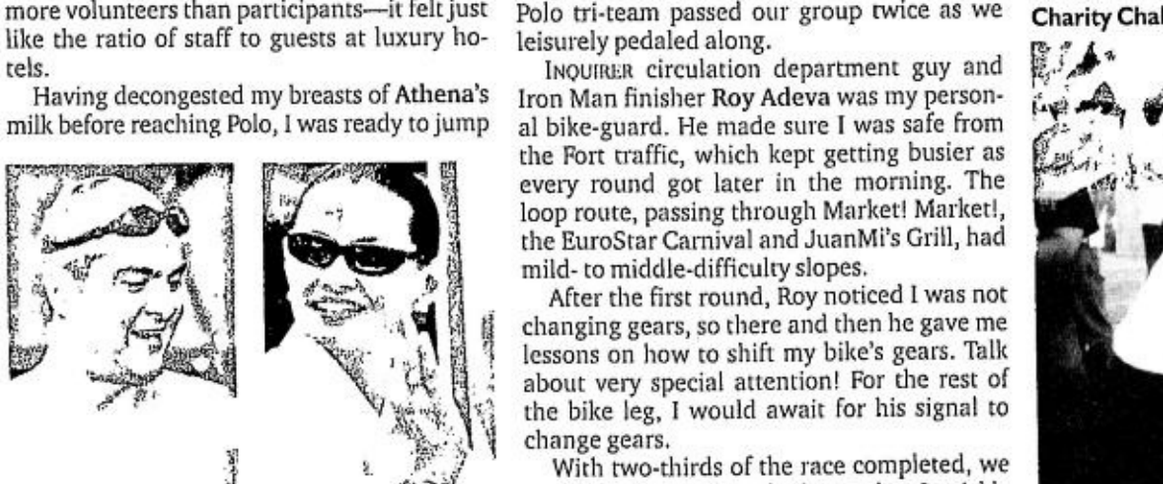


OVER P2 million in pledges for Children's Hour raised by HSBC Charity Challenge

CHARITY bazaar T-shirt creations by model-perfect Rissa Samson, son Enzo and fun Kate Torralba



INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez with her two sons



TRIATHLON finishers and generous donors at HSBC Charity Challenge for Children's Hour

HSBC CEO Warner Manning with lovely wife Julie

TALENTED Pops Fernandez making a T-shirt for auction

PRETTY preggy mom Kit Zobel with daughter Sylvia

HSBC Deputy CEO Martin Cook and hardworking PR Laine Santana

WARNER Manning and Kuh Ledesma

POWER Bikes' Boyet Camba and manager Ado de Leon

AD guru and tri-finisher David Guerrero

CHARITY fair jeweler Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez

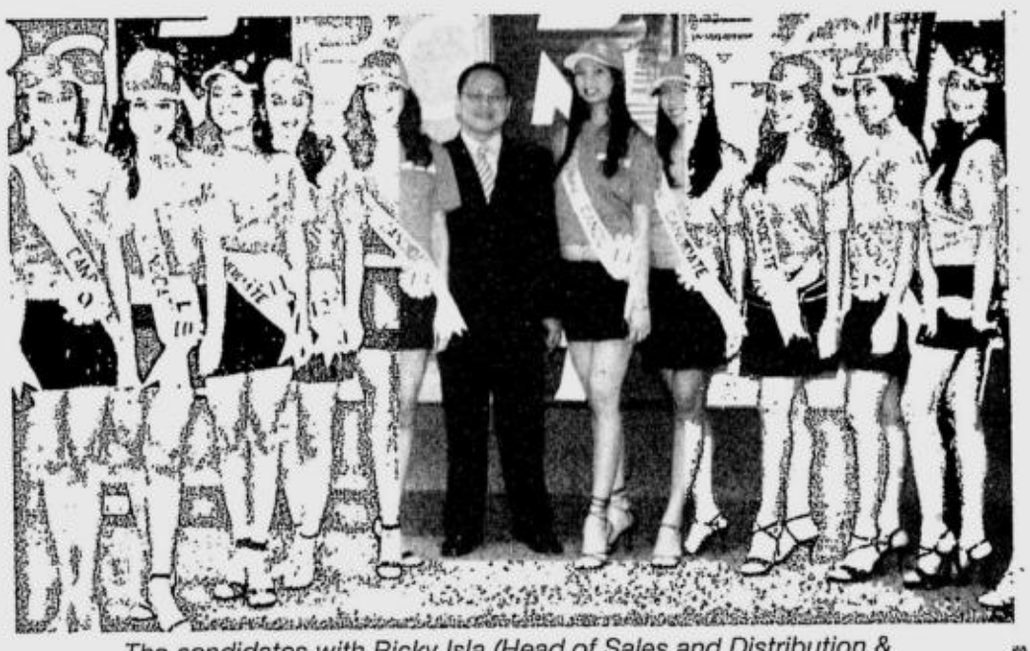
SMART Welcomes *Bb. Pilipinas 2006*

We are all waiting for the most prestigious beauty pageant in the country to commence at the Araneta Coliseum on March 4, 2006 at 8pm. With twenty-four lovely candidates vying to be the next Bb. Pilipinas-Universe, Bb. Pilipinas-World, and Bb. Pilipinas-International crown holders, it is set to be an exciting event matching brains with beauty.

Riding the 3G wave at the SMART Wireless Center

A grand tour of a SMART Wireless Center then followed. Here, the ladies were able to do an actual demonstration of the newest SMART service to hit the market, SMART 3G. At the comfy café like SMART WiFi Zone, at one end of the center, the ladies were able to sit back and relax as they browsed the World Wide Web.

But even before that highly anticipated evening, pageant corporate sponsor SMART Communications Incorporated was privileged to have the candidates as guests at their SMART head office. It was an opportunity for the ladies to get to know the latest product and services of the company and to meet in person the real people behind its success. Dan Ibarra (Head of Usage Marketing and E-Services Group), Manny Perez (Head for Value Added Services), and Rolando Peña (Networks Service Division Head) wished them all the best of luck for the coming Coronation Night and thanked them for their visit.



The candidates with Ricky Isla (Head of Sales and Distribution & Product Marketing Activation Group)

For those of us eagerly following the progress of the 2006 Bb. Pilipinas beauty pageant the ladies have now become familiar faces. Although only three will be chosen as the official crown-holders, others would have surely left their own lasting impressions. With the SMART Texters' Choice Award, SMART subscribers can actively participate in the pageant by choosing and voting for their favorite candidate.

Barely a week left, the ladies are as prepared as they can be. All roads lead to the Araneta Coliseum as the country's most beautiful women gather for a night of dazzling glamour.

Buy your Bb. Pilipinas tickets now! Call TicketNet at 9115555 for inquiries.

At the SMART WiFi Zone there was broadband Internet access for everyone. So much faster and more convenient!

The 2006 Bb. Pilipinas Candidates

The ladies meet Joy Sanchez, Head of Customer Care, and were introduced to the latest products and services

Vote for your favorite Bb. Pilipinas candidate

To Vote

Text
BP <candidate's number>
to
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Option Send

To get more information about Bb. Pilipinas

Text
BP
to
367
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P2.50/ text message
For more information like candidates' names and numbers go to www.bbpilipinas.com

Binibining Pilipinas The Pageant

Araneta Center

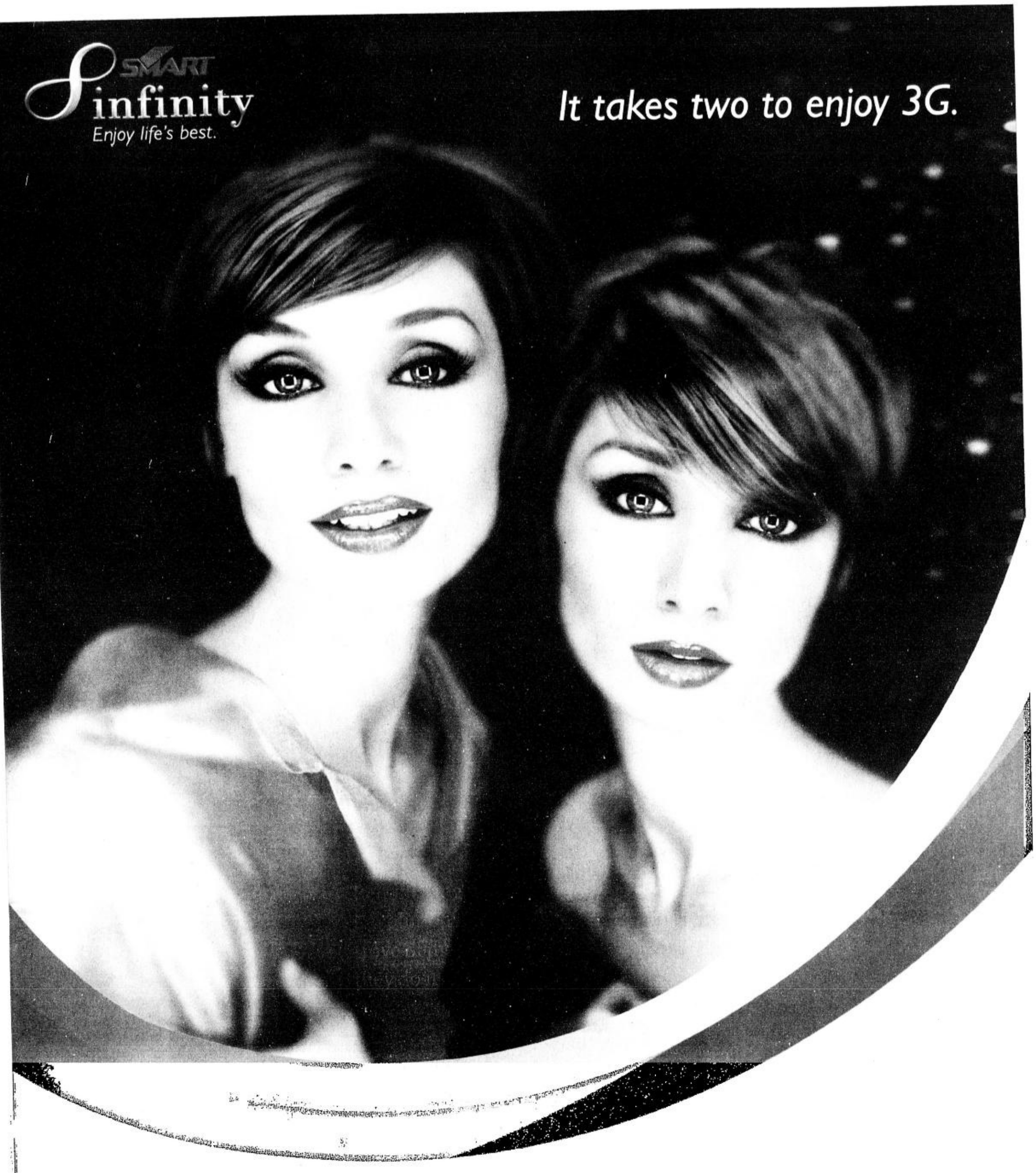
SMART 3G

SMART WiFi

SMART Simply Amazing!

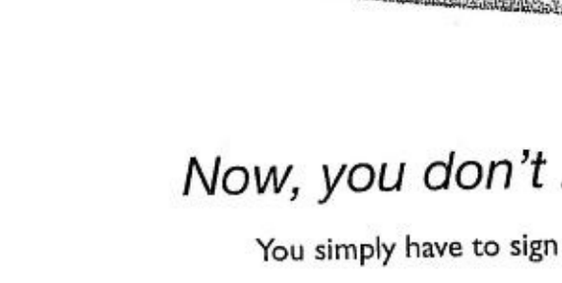
SMART infinity
Enjoy life's best.

It takes two to enjoy 3G.



Now, you don't have to think twice about SMART Infinity and 3G.

You simply have to sign up for a new Smart Infinity subscription to get any of three 3G phone combinations.



2 Nokia N70s

Nokia N70 and 6680

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BECKY Garcia weds again /E2

A 'SWAN' floats gracefully in this appetizer.

Expo gives a taste of what a wedding feast can be

HIZON'S CATERING and Corporate Canteen Corp. will be the exclusive caterer for the Wedding Expo March 4-5 at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The company was set up 18 years ago by Baby D. Hizon in a 10-square meter kitchen in her home in the family compound at Quezon City.

Now the tiny kitchen is a three-story, 2,000-sq m concern in the same compound. The eldest two of her seven kids are helping her run the company.

David Henry is the executive chef while Joseph Henry is the marketing manager.

Hizon's Catering can serve simultaneously 12 weddings, debuts, corporate parties with guests numbering 5,000.

It was caterer to milestone events of the likes of Petron, Globe, Smart, Metrobank, Ayala Land, Max Restaurant, Amkor-Annam, Fujitsu, and Motorola.

The caterer was also tapped for celebrity weddings, and important occasions for Presidents Cory Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada, and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

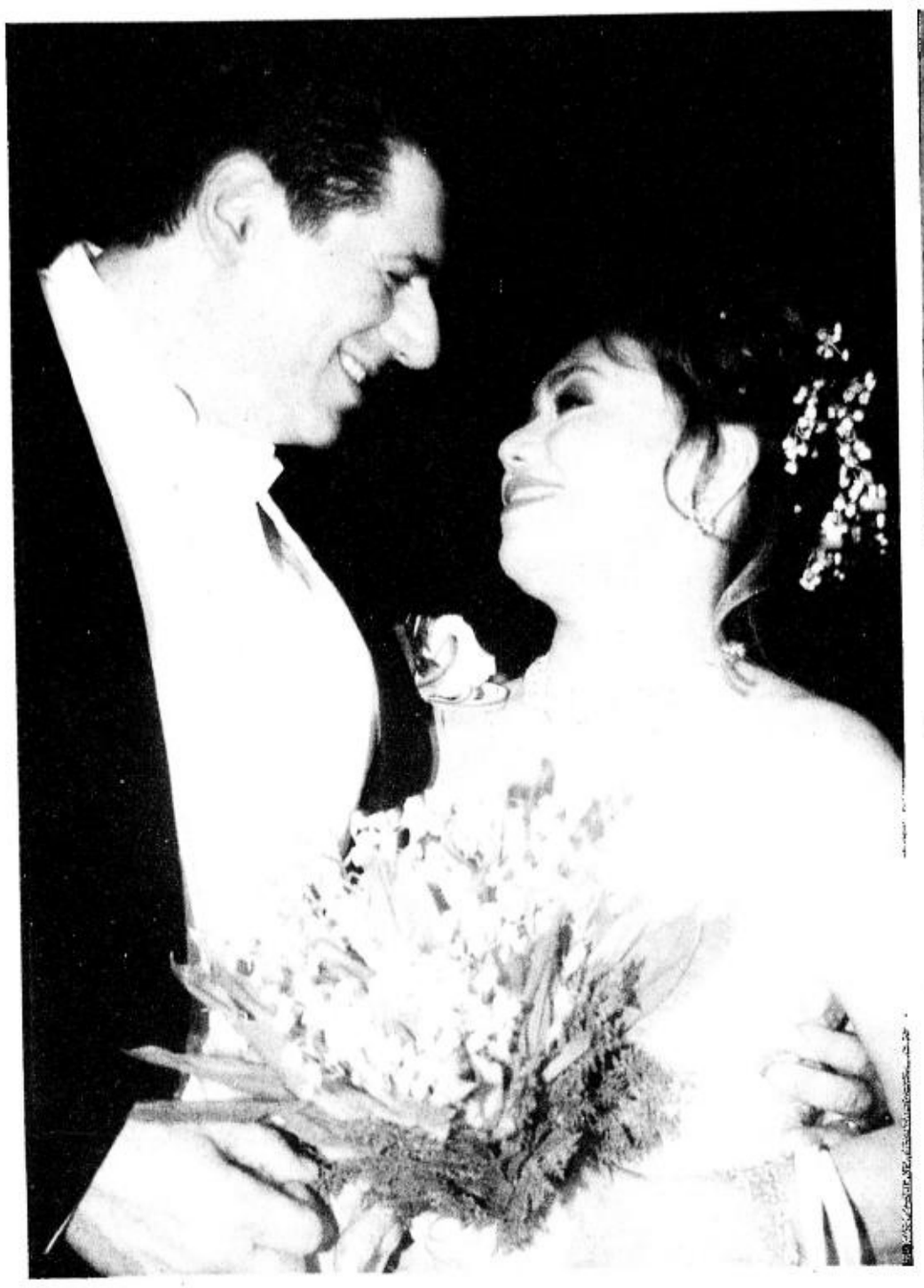
Joseph encouraged his mother to participate in the expo knowing engaged couples were going to make bookings for their weddings.

At the expo, chef David will give visitors a taste of his salad and appetizers such as the fish and shrimp ceviche served with mescaline greens and apple cider vinaigrette, and seared ahi tuna with kani salad.

As entrée, he will offer prime rib roast beef with red wine or béarnaise sauce served with garlic-mashed potatoes and an assortment of garden vegetables. Dessert will be the classic French custard crème brûlée.

David is a graduate of Hotel and Restaurant Management from De la Salle University's College of St. Benilde. He got a degree in Culinary Arts from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and Diplome de Art Culiniare from the Le Cordon Bleu Schools of North America. Joseph is a marketing communications graduate from De La Salle University.

Hizon's is at 22 Renowned Lane, Sanville Subdivision, Project 6, Quezon City. Call 9283672, 9250103 or 9250107, e-mail info@hizonscatering.com. Visit their website at www.hizonscatering.com.



PRINCIPAL sponsors: Amparito Lhuillier, Minda Feliciano, Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, Imelda Romualdez-Marcos, Mr. and Ms Georg Sarakinis, Irene Martel, Nini Ramos-Licaros and Nancy Binay-Angeles

A Grecian garden wedding

Text and photos by Mandy Navasero

Dancing was naturally one of the highlights of Becky Garcia's wedding to a Greek businessman

BALLROOM-DANCING QUEEN BECKY Garcia, head of Dance Sports Council of the Philippines, married recently suave Greek dentist-businessman Georg Sarakinis at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel's third floor garden.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay officiated at the civil rites.

For the ceremony, the venue was transformed into a Grecian setting with columns adorned with roses. A red carpet was strewn with petals.

Garcia's wedding gown was designed by international Filipino designer Monique Lhuillier while the groom had a German-tailored tailcoat.

Garcia's California-based sister, Irene McGhee, and Sarakinis' parents, Dr. Anastacios and Urania Sarakinis, with uncle Dr. Gerasimus Sarakinis, flew in days before the wedding. Uncle Gerasimus was a principal sponsor along with jet-setter Minda Feliciano-Lonsdale and former First Lady Imelda Romualdez-Marcos.

Other sponsors were BMW country manager Jeorg Breuer, Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, Nedy Tantoco, Ambassador Joey Antonio, Marvie Cojuangco-Yulo, lawyer Noel Laman, Johnny Litton, Cebu's top socialite Amparito Lhuillier and Nini Ramos-Licaros.

Two sponsors, Tonet Lagdameo and Makati First Lady Elenita Binay, were represented by son Cary Lagdameo and daughter Nancy Binay-Angeles, respectively.

The black-tie reception was held at the Quezon Ballroom of the Shangri-La. Saxophonist Vince Lahorra performed during cocktails while the finest wines from Tita Trillo's Titania Wine Cellar flowed.

Heny Sison's multitiered fondant cake was surrounded with red roses. Cory Quirino and Donnie Ramirez, one of the groomsmen, emceed the program.

'Musical' dinner

Each entrée in the six-course dinner was named after the couple's favorite songs. Arthur Manuntag sang each song as a dish was brought out.

The appetizer—sliced parma ham with green beans salad with warm ricotta flan—was named after The Carpenters' "We've Only Just Begun." The next four courses were called "Fly Me to the Moon," "My Foolish Heart," "The Way You Look Tonight" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You." Coffee and tea were served to the tune of "Alone at Last."

The dance floor at the center of the reception hall was lit from below, to everyone's delight. It set up the mood for performances of winning numbers by members of the Dance Sports Council of the Philippines who bagged two gold medals in the recent South East Asian Games.

The party was capped by ballroom dancing to the music of Onda Latina.

Sarakinis met Garcia during a business trip to Manila in 2004. The groom said it was love at first sight for him and Garcia found him irresistible. He invited her to Frankfurt, where he was based, to meet his family.

An engagement party was held at Le Souffle in Rockwell, Makati City, in February 2005.

The newlyweds honeymooned in Frankfurt. A Greek wedding is scheduled in Athens middle of this year.

The groom hinted that they might make Manila their home base.

LAWYER Noel Laman, Joey Antonio, Gov. Chavit Singson and Jeorg Breuer of BMW

TITA Meneses-Trillo of Titania Wine Cellar and Lawrence Bruno

DR. GEORG Sarakinis dancing with mom Urania

MR. AND MS Lito German. Lito played Cupid to the newlyweds.

CHE SINGSON

73rd anniversary of Virgin's apparition marked

ON HER LAST APPARITION to young Mariette Beco in Banneux, Belgium, on March 2, 1933, the Virgin of the Poor said, "I am the mother of the Savior, mother of God."

Our Lady appeared to Mariette eight times from January that year, telling the young girl we should take care of the sick, be loyal to her and her Son, and consider prayer and poverty as the basic attitudes of our life.

On Jan. 19, 1933, she identified herself as "Virgin of the Poor," affirming her virginity and attachment to the poor.

The devotion to the Virgin of the Poor reached the Philippines and 120 statues of her are found in churches and schools all over the country.

In the '60s, German missionaries of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) and the Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tuzting (OSB) actively propagated devotion to the Virgin, Banneux being near the border of Germany and Belgium.

Thus, it is fitting that the St. Scholastica's Archives-Museum will have a statue of the Virgin of the Poor during the priory's celebration of its 100th year in the Philippines this year. It is strongly recommended that images of Our Lady of Banneux have some identification to promote her message effectively.

The first statue in the Philippines was received by Fr. Joseph Heuwagen, SVD, after a home leave in Germany. He blessed it at St. Joseph Parish in Claveria, Cagayan, on March 2, 1958.

The message of Our Lady in Banneux and more than 120 statues in the country are featured in the book "The Virgin of the Poor: A Tribute from Her Filipino Children" by Milagros I. Dolores. The book is available in leading bookstores including Catholic Book Center in Arzobispado, Intramuros.

The Sisters of Mary who run Boystown and Girlstown in Silang, Cavite, propagate the devotion. Their founder, Msgr. Aloysious Schwartz, was a devotee of the Virgin. The cause for the beatification of Schwartz was launched in 2003. His remains are buried in the chapel in Girlstown. A memorabilia exhibit will open March 18.

Help needed

Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Calangusan, Orion, Bataan, needs help to build a main door, a permanent tabernacle and a *retablo*.

Fr. Antonio Quintos Jr., parish priest, said the parish covered five barangays and one sitio of Calangusan. Parishioners, mostly farmers and fishermen with a few professionals and overseas contract workers, number about 20,000. Contact Rev. Fr. Quintos at the Balanga diocese Chancery, (047)2373226, (047)2445588. Contributions may be deposited to savings account number 0783-1485-28 at the Bank of the Philippines Island branch in Balanga. Thank you for your kindness.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Symposium

Parishes all over the Philippines dedicated to St. Joseph are invited to a national symposium, March 3-4, in Batangas. Organized by the Oblates of St. Joseph, the event opens March 3 at the archdiocesan shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas. On March 4, from 7 a.m., activities will be held at the CAP building, Lipa.

Oscar Orbos will talk on dignity of labor and honesty in work at 8:30 a.m. Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo will talk on St. Joseph, guardian of the Redeemer and protector of the Universal Church at 10 a.m. Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, will discuss St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, while Matt Ranillo III will testify on how graces can flow into a faithful marriage.

Fr. Nelson Osorio, OSJ, will celebrate the healing mass at 4 p.m. Fr. Rony Alkonga spearheads the symposium. Call Bro. Den Mark, OSJ, at (043)7562550 or text 0918-4598176.

Biography

The illustrated biography of St. Josemaria Escriva is now available at Sinagtala Publishing House. Call 8971161. Sinagtala books are available in major bookstores.

Those who want prayer cards can write to me at P.O. Box 2050, Manila. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

New book

Sandra Mijares called her new book "Roses in December," quoting a verse that said: "God gave me beautiful memories, so I can have roses in December."

Formerly with the public information department of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Sandra is a single parent who worked hard to put her two sons in school and build a small house.

The 15 stories in her book are about the support of friends and family when the going was hard; her happy childhood, and her love for her parents and grandparents. It is about courage to go on after an unsuccessful marriage, believing that God will provide. And He did.

Call 7227631 or text 0920-9122487.

Visit

Every year, people troop to Antipolo Cathedral especially in April, May and June to fulfill a *panata* to our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage. Batangueños are among the pilgrims. Devotion to our Lady of Antipolo is well-observed in the humble town of Balayan.

So, the Knights of Columbus Western Batangas Council No. 4668 arranged for the Feb. 25-27 visit of the Virgin. The council, with the support of the Balayan Tourism Council, prepared colorful presentations, prayerful veneration, solemn procession, concelebrated Mass and much more for a weekend of blessings to the Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Balayan, Batangas.

6 p.m. habit

According to visionary Nila Almoradie, we should light candles at 6 p.m. everyday in our altars at home and pray to prevent more disasters. The Sto. Niño de Buenaobra talks through Nila.

TRINING Martinez, Cora Guiang, Beng de Sagun, Meding Aquino, Leni Buscat and Mila Dolores with the image of the Virgin of the Poor at the St. Scholastica's Academy in San Fernando, Pampanga

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

EVANGELISTA-ARCILLA

Elmer Evangelista, son of **Jesus** and **Herminia Evangelista** of Balwin Park, California, exchanged marriage vows with **Josephine Margie Arcilla**, daughter of **Conrado** and **Josephine Arcilla** of Virac, Catanduanes, last Dec. 16, 2005. Ceremony was held at Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati, and reception followed at Makati Shangri-La.

YANGA-PO

Edsel D. Yanga, youngest son of Malabon City councilor **Rogelio** and **Herminia Yanga**, and **Jhoanna M. Po**, only daughter of businessman **John** and **Perla Po**, exchanged vows recently at the Nuestra Señora de los Remedios Church, Malate, Manila. Reception followed at the Wah Yuen Chinese Seafood Restaurant, Adriatico Street, Ermita, Manila.

GUANLAO-VILLARANTE

Valeriano Guanlao and **Vilma Villarante** will solemnize their marriage today at the Basilica of San Sebastian, Plaza del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown using ivory duchess satin and silk chiffon.

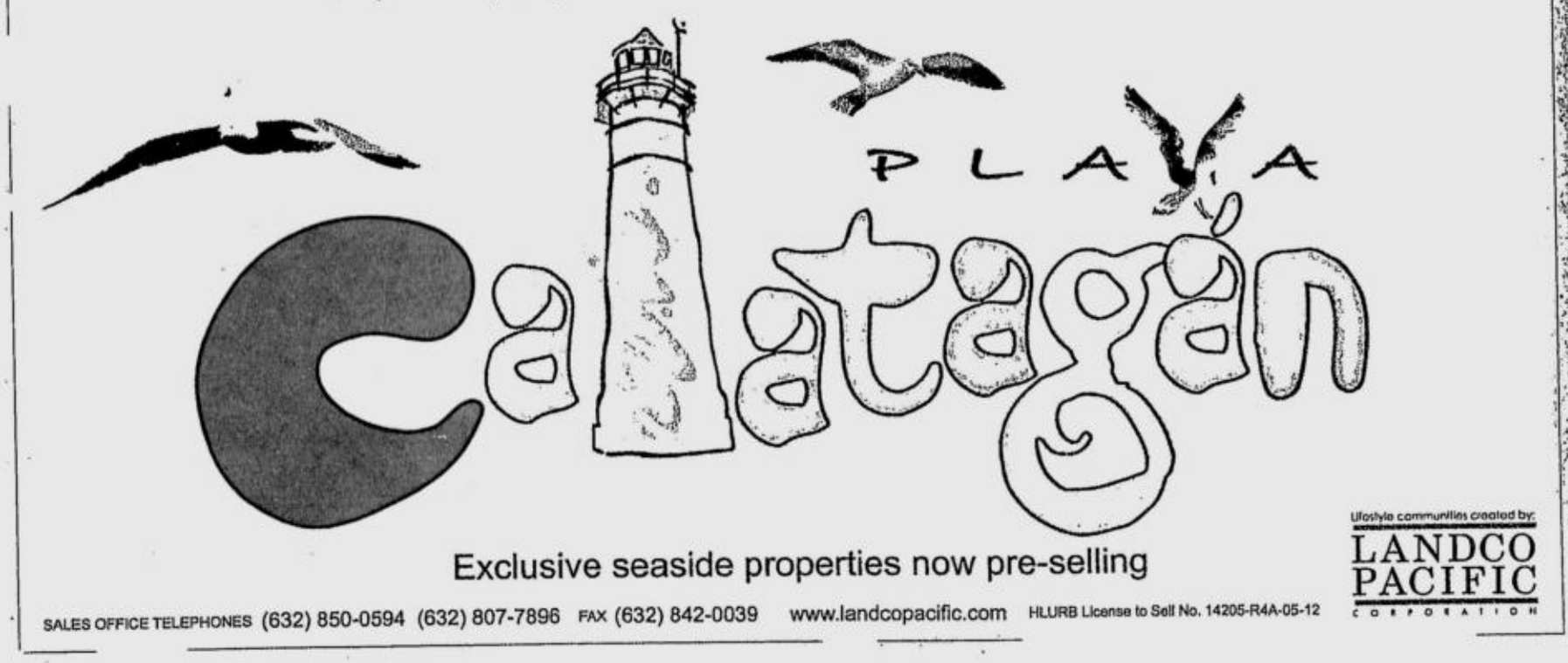
The female entourage will wear gowns in silver-gray shantung silk and chiffon.

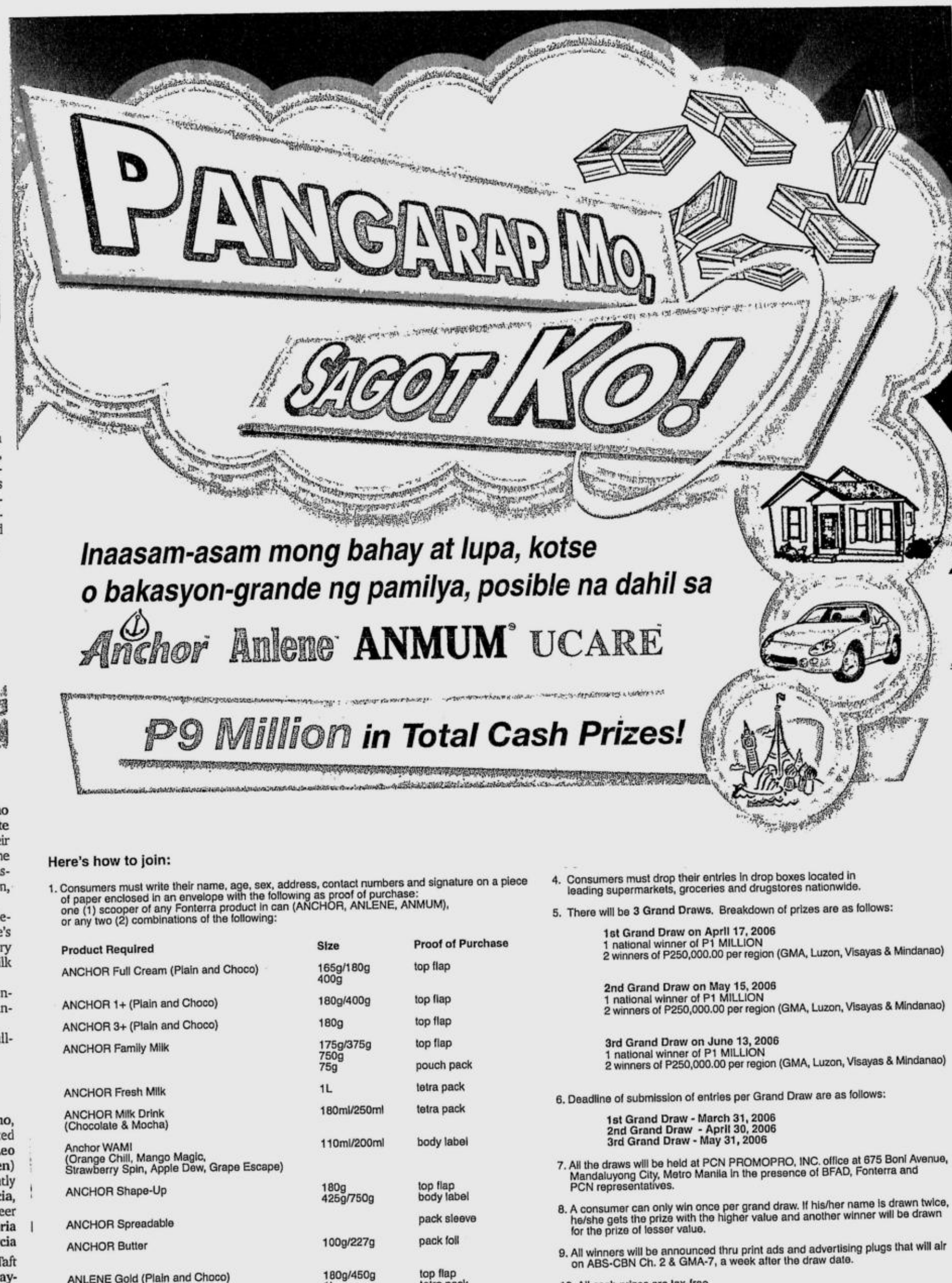
Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of the InterContinental Hotel.

SORIANO-GARCIA

Nezer A. Soriano, son of Bishop (United Methodist Church) **Leo** and **Dania** (née **Aben**) **Soriano**, wed recently Ma. **Gracia C. Garcia**, daughter of engineer **Perfecto** and **Gloria** (née **Cristobal**) **Garcia** at the Central United Methodist Church, Taft Avenue corner Kalaw St., Manila. **Aldin Abayon** of Heavenly Weddings in Cebu City designed the wedding gown.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD





Here's how to join:

1. Consumers must write their name, age, sex, address, contact numbers and signature on a piece of paper enclosed in an envelope with the following as proof of purchase: one (1) scooper of any Fonterra product in can (ANCHOR, ANLENE, ANMUM), or any two (2) combinations of the following:

Product Required	Size	Proof of Purchase
ANCHOR Full Cream (Plain and Choco)	165g/180g 400g	top flap
ANCHOR 1+ (Plain and Choco)	180g/400g	top flap
ANCHOR 3+ (Plain and Choco)	180g	top flap
ANCHOR Family Milk	175g/375g 750g 75g	top flap pouch pack
ANCHOR Fresh Milk	1L	tetra pack
ANCHOR Milk Drink (Chocolate & Mocha)	180ml/250ml	tetra pack
Anchor WAMI (Orange Chill, Mango Magic, Strawberry Spin, Apple Dew, Grape Escape)	110ml/200ml	body label
ANCHOR Shape-Up	180g 425g/750g	top flap body label
ANCHOR Spreadable		pack sleeve
ANCHOR Butter	100g/227g	pack foil
ANLENE Gold (Plain and Choco)	180g/450g 1L	top flap tetra pack
ANLENE Active (Plain and Choco)	180g 425g/750g 250mL/1L	top flap body label tetra pack
ANMUM (Plain and Choco)	180g/400g	top flap
UCARE Powdered Milk	75g 165g/175g 400g/750g	pouch pack top flap
UCARE 123	180g/400g 750g	top flap

2. All entries should be at least 3/4 intact.
3. Senders must be at least 18 years of age to qualify.
4. Consumers must drop their entries in drop boxes located in leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.
5. There will be **3 Grand Draws**. Breakdown of prizes are as follows:

   1st Grand Draw on April 17, 2006
   1 national winner of P1 MILLION
   2 winners of P250,000.00 per region (GMA, Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao)

   2nd Grand Draw on May 15, 2006
   1 national winner of P1 MILLION
   2 winners of P250,000.00 per region (GMA, Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao)

   3rd Grand Draw on June 13, 2006
   1 national winner of P1 MILLION
   2 winners of P250,000.00 per region (GMA, Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao)

6. Deadline of submission of entries per Grand Draw are as follows:

   1st Grand Draw - March 31, 2006
   2nd Grand Draw - April 30, 2006
   3rd Grand Draw - May 31, 2006

7. All the draws will be held at PCN PROMOPRO, INC. office at 675 Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila in the presence of BFAD, Fonterra and PCN representatives.
8. A consumer can only win once per grand draw. If his/her name is drawn twice, he/she gets the prize with the higher value and another winner will be drawn for the prize of lesser value.
9. All winners will be announced thru print ads and advertising plugs that will air on ABS-CBN Ch. 2 & GMA-7, a week after the draw date.
10. All cash prizes are tax-free.
11. Non-winning entries of the previous draw/s are still eligible for the P1 Million Grand Prize in succeeding draw/s.
12. Employees of Fonterra Brands Phils., Inc., its advertising agencies and affiliates, up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
13. All winners will be notified via phone call and registered mail.
14. All winners will be provided with details on how to claim their prizes. Actual claiming should be within 60 days from date of notification letter. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited in favor of Fonterra with prior approval of BFAD.
15. In case of dispute, Fonterra Brands' decision with the concurrence from BFAD shall be deemed final.

Promo period: Feb. 20, 2006 - May 31, 2006
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such as video-calling, high-speed internet browsing
and video streaming with these phones from SMART Gold.

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FREE @ Plan 1800

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Available only to SMART and non-SMART existing postpaid subscribers.
Subscriptions are subject to a 24-month locked-in period.
All applications are subject to SMART's credit guidelines.
For details, please call *888 via your SMART cellfone or the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 or visit any SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

Application Requirements for existing SMART Gold subscribers:
• Valid I.D. • Proof of billing • Proof of income

Requirements for applicants transferring from other networks:
• Last 2months paid billing statements from current cellular network provider
• Valid I.D.

See flyers for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1111, Series of 2006.

SMART GOLD 3G

You can also catch SMART 3G at these malls: Rockwell Powerplant, The Podium, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Robinson's Place Manila and SM Megamall.

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Sunday STYLE

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Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

IT'S COMING, BOY! Submitted by Qyam Mychaels, who hid to take photos of this kid "who was so obsessed with the whiteness and fineness of the sand that he didn't care what was happening around him. In the background was a mini tsunami that seemed to be bringing along with it the famed grotto rocks of Boracay toward the shore."

PDI-SUN VILLAGE-SEAIR PHOTO CONTEST

Oblivious on Boracay

CHILDREN MAY BE THE toughest rival of the Boracay scenery in photographs, but they don't really have to compete, as we've found out in the many, many entries we have received where lensmen focused on kids vacationing in the island paradise.

Qyam Mychaels' photo of a boy engrossed in sand play against a backdrop of blue skies and threatening waves is among this week's winners, along with Michael Dy's floating buko vendor, Dennis S. Sibal's wakeboarder and Rochelle Bunag's shapely yogi.

The four winners join our finalists for the top three prizes. They may claim their Nivea Sun

OBLIVIOUS/F2

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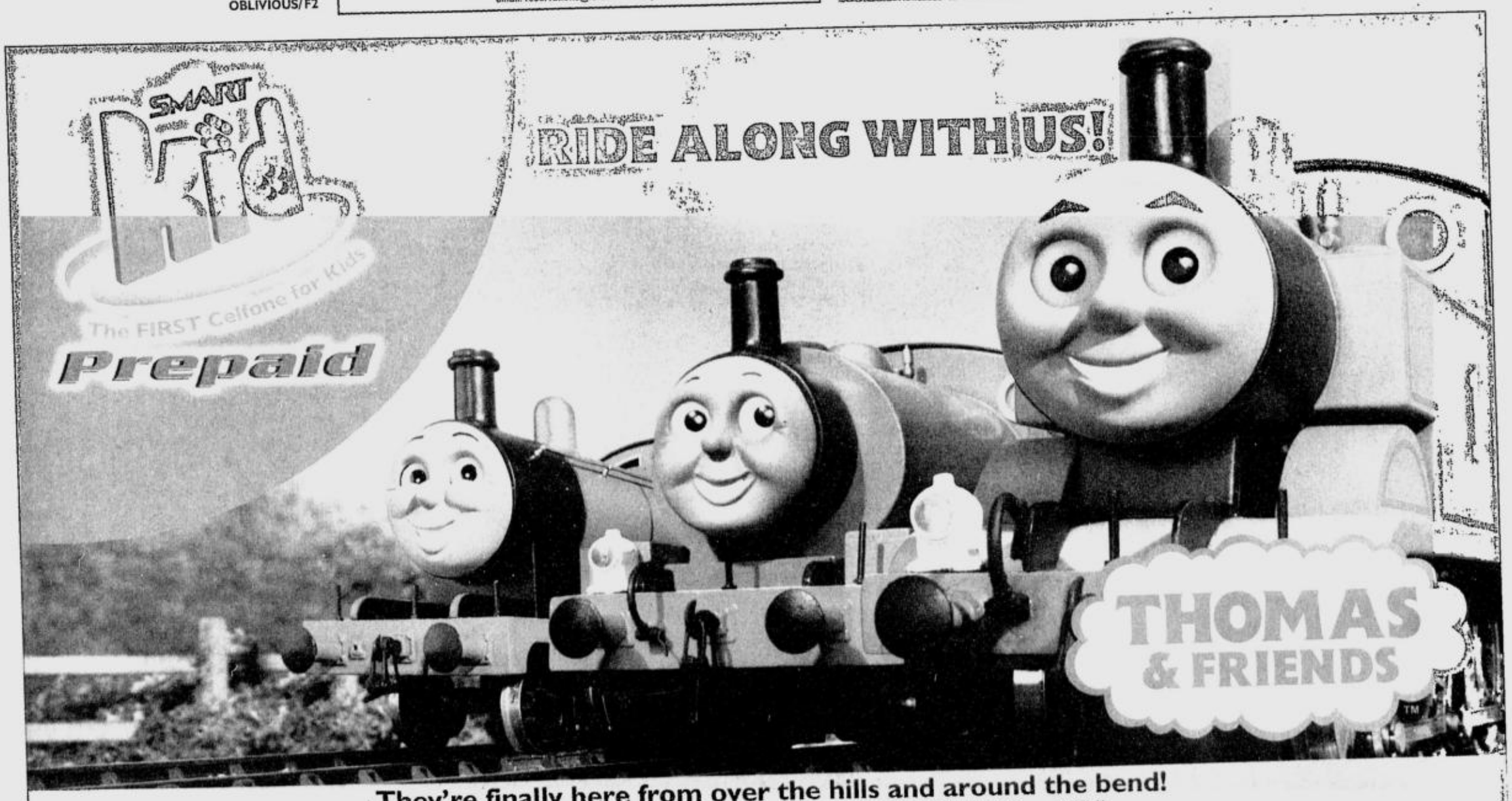

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Take two on Puerto Gal

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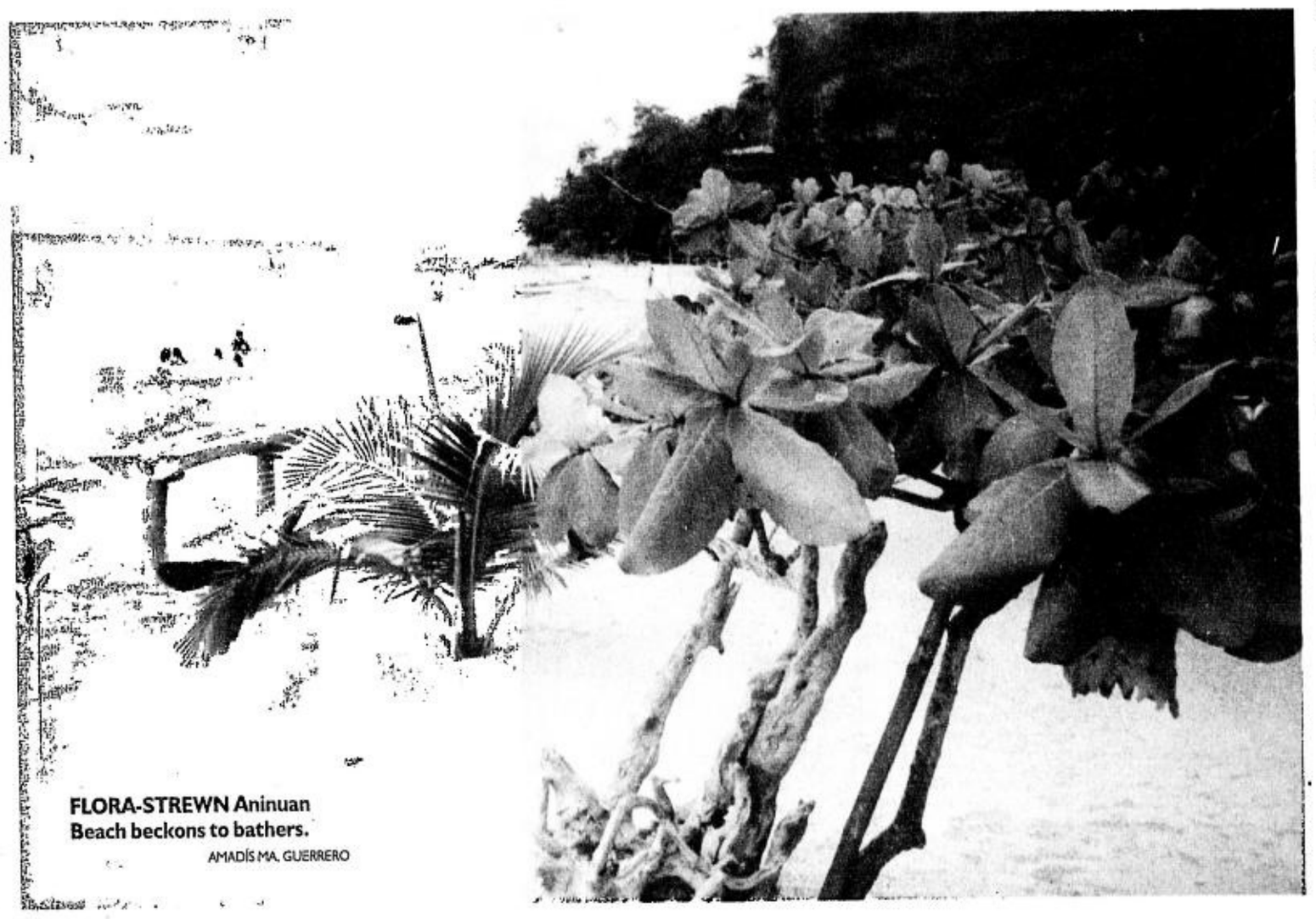
Oriental Mindoro's center of natural beauty offers beaches, coves, a superb natural harbor, marine life, corals, dive sites, falls and bay



FLORA-STREWN Aninuan Beach beckons to bathers.
AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE SPANISH *CONQUISTADORES* named the big island of Mindoro "Mina de Oro" because gold was abundant in the region. The galleon ships—heavy with merchandise like spices, silk, gold, bee's wax, silver, farm products, manufactured goods from China—passed through here on the way to or coming from Acapulco, Mexico.

There was a lush mountain, Halcon, ancestral home of the 10 tribes of Mangyans, where the *tamaraw* roamed; a lovely lake at Naujan; and on the west coast, the superb Apo Reef and Pandan Island, with its jungle ambience.

The Spaniards must have been enchanted with the area, as would be the Americans 300 years later.

Referring to the country in general, American author Stanley Karnow in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "In Our Image," wrote:

"Subsequent Spanish settlers, and the Americans who came centuries later, were awed by the beauty of the Philippines. Their wonderment was not misplaced. The archipelago, one of nature's glories, is indeed a brilliant tapestry of land, sea and sky, fields, forests, mountains, wildlife and peoples—all so dazzling and diverse as to seem unreal."

Natural beauty

Then and now, Oriental Mindoro's center of natural beauty was Puerto Galera, with its beaches, coves, superb natural harbor where the Spanish ships took refuge during storms, marine life, corals, dive sites, falls and bay (recently adjudged one of the 10 best in the world).

By the mid-1930s, Puerto Galera had become a marine reserve of the University of the Philippines Zoological Undersea Garden and Marine Biology Laboratory.

Tourism as we know it began in 1979 with the modest Montiel's Nipa Hut, which flourished and soon gave way to other inns and resorts. These grew in number as Puerto Galera's reputation spread, and the coastal town began to attract adventure tourists, divers, foreign backpackers and all sorts of characters.

With substance abuse, sex and pedophilia, Puerto Galera acquired an unsavory image. But that was years ago, and things have improved since then.

Strategic location

A good introduction to Puerto Galera would be the lush, tropical Coco Beach Island Resort (Manila office, tel. 5230319) which recently celebrated its 19th anniversary. There are resort vans which every morning pick up guests at the Manila Hotel and the Manila Diamond Hotel for the two-hour ride to Tabangan Pier, just outside Batangas City proper. There follows a 90-minute outrigger boat ride to the resort, which is strategically located near Puerto Galera Bay and the main port of the town.

The 10-ha Coco Beach Island Resort has, among other features, a revolving restaurant, jeepney-cable car, coco-soap factory, hanging bridge and hilltop native cottages amid a forest setting, hemmed in by plants, flowers and trees. The scene approximates what Joseph Conrad called "the monumental amphitheater of hills."

The ambience is proudly native. The rooms are made of bamboo, bamboo slats, wood, local *tangile*, *nipa*, *sawali* and balustrades of corals. The lampshades made of native fans have a cascade of *capiz* shells and complement the *buntal* hats. The bathrooms have a mosaic of corals, while the shower curtains showcase underwater and forest scenes capped by a rainbow.

The open windows let in the breeze. There are electric fans and mosquito nets, but (except in the new Conference-Heritage House) no air-conditioning.

"We are not trying to be a luxurious resort," explains general manager Connie Garcia Pausanos. "We prefer to run it like a small family place offering simple service, natural beauty and Filipino hospitality."

Within hailing distance of your cottage (just pull the cord outside the door) is the house of the service family assigned to you (in our case headed by Eugene).

They maintain the rooms and render any service you may need. At night one family member lowers the mosquito net hanging under the ceiling, arranges your bed and blanket into a neat pattern, and places fresh flowers on your pillow.

Among its activities, the resort has a daily morning boat trip to another beach (free) and a separate ride for island-hopping (not free).

From Coco Beach, those who would like to further explore Puerto Galera can take a pumpboat ride (P180) to the nearby Puerto Galera Bay (also known as Muelle Bay) and the main port of the town, with its old Spanish cannon and marble cross.

The landmark is in memory of Spanish navymen who perished when their warship Cañonera sank here on Nov. 18, 1879, during a storm, while on patrol. The pier is the last piece of land (*"ultima tierra que pisaron los tripulantes..."*) the crewmen stepped on before meeting their fate. The cross was placed there by their comrades.

Night life

During weekends and peak months, White Beach, with its resto-bars, resorts and hotels, has a throbbing night life. There is the chance of at-risk behavior, as the researchers would put it. Waiter-by-day Juancho (not his real name) blooms at night to become Juanita, and returns to his lodgings at the crack of dawn.

Aninuan Beach is quieter, and by day only the lapping of the waves and the delighted screams of passengers on speeding banana boats break the silence.

Sabang is another interesting place. It has no beach to speak of as the harbor is deep, so there are always boats and yachts at anchor. Three are many resto-bars, eateries and inns where domestic and foreign tourists, including families, can be seen dining or drinking.

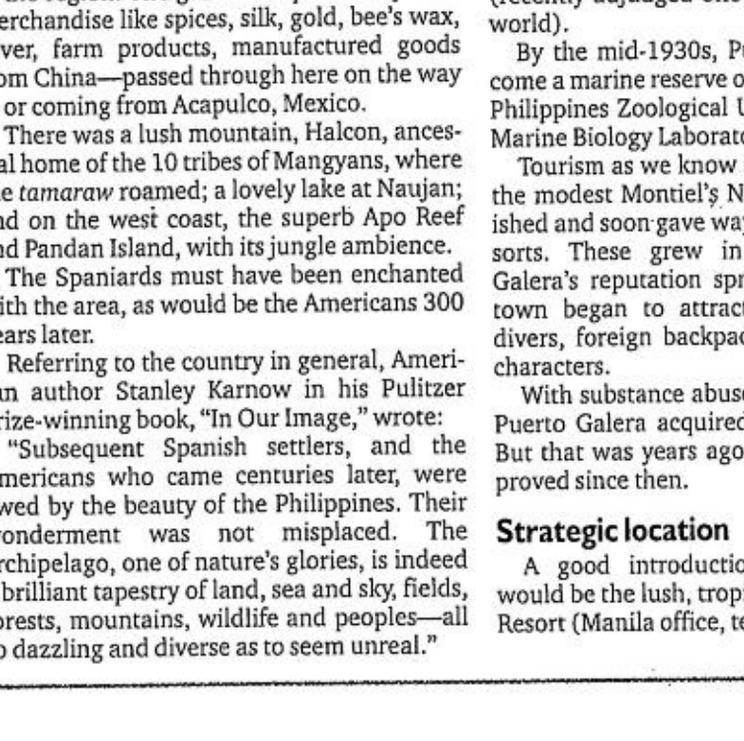
Sabang is also another point of departure (out of several) for Manila via Batangas. And so we bid goodbye to Puerto Galera and hope to return in the future, as we continue our exploration of this archipelago which is "all so dazzling and diverse as to seem unreal."

By Nikki M. Meru
Contributor

IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HIT hard by this concoction of local rum, grenadine, pineapple juice, soda and chunks of apples, known as the Mindoro Sling, chances are you haven't been to Puerto Galera.

White Beach, Puerto Galera, is

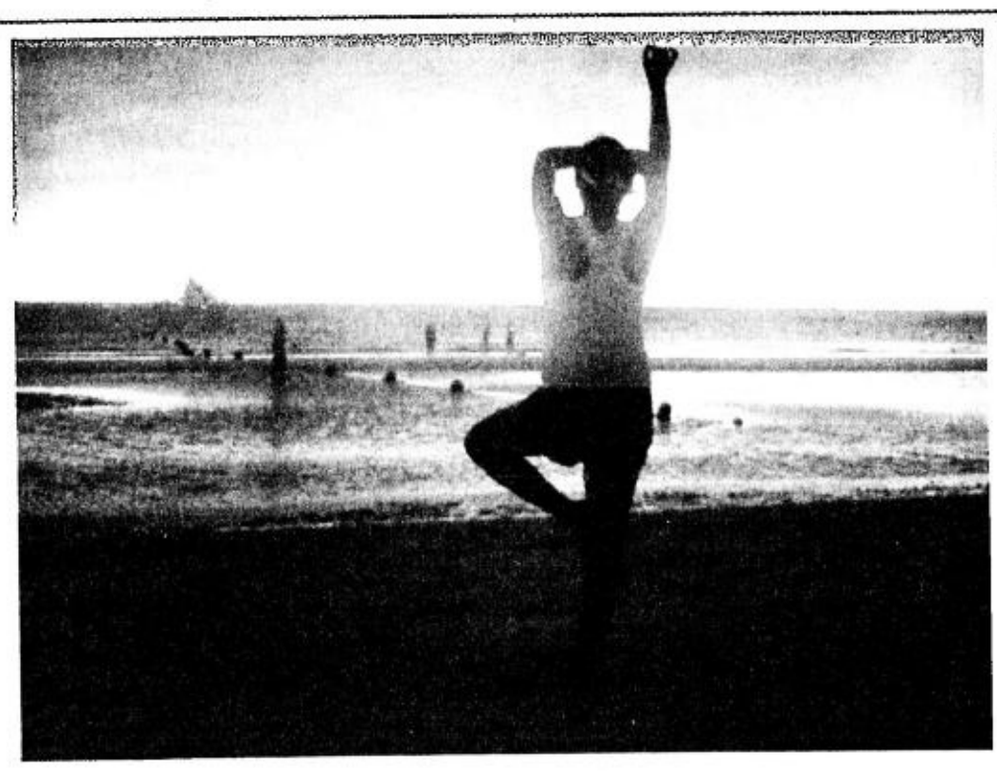
BODY art



ON ONE LEG AGAINST THE SUNSET, submitted by Rochelle Bunag, who went with friends just two weeks ago after their graduation and tried "to capture the afterglow."

WAKEBOARDING OOPS! Submitted by Dennis S. Sibal, who says not to worry, the boy landed on the fine white sands of the long beach in Bora.

BUKO KAYO DIYAN, submitted by Michael Dy, captures a *buko* vendor afloat along the Boracay beach cliff area last December.



Oblivious on Boracay

From page F1

Gift Packs from our marketing department on any work day (call 8978808 and ask for Hazel Soriaga).

Contest details

The Best of Boracay Photo Contest is open to all photo enthusiasts who have personally visited Boracay.

If your photo entry is in print, it must be 8" x 10" in size. Sorry, no prints will be returned. If in digital form, it must be in 200 resolution JPEG format and unaltered.

Remember to e-mail each photo separately. We will not consider photos submitted with other photos in one e-mail.

Submit the photo with a short caption describing the experience, where in Boracay and when the photo was taken, as well as the following information: your name, address, mobile phone number, landline phone number and e-mail address.

Send your entry to the Best of Boracay Photo Contest, Lifestyle c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, or e-mail to travelpromo@inquirer.com.ph

Entries must be received at the PDI office if hand-delivered or via e-mail by March 24. Mailed entries must be postmarked March 24, 2006.

The first-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for four to Boracay courtesy of Seair; five days-four night stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The second-prize winner gets round-trip tickets to Boracay for two courtesy of Seair; four days-three nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

The third-prize winner gets round-trip tickets for two to Boracay courtesy of Seair; three days-two nights stay in Sun Village Resorts inclusive of accommodation and breakfast; and Nivea Sun gift packs.

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Secret treasures

The Secret Treasures of Old Burma —now known as Myanmar, is still of the world's best secrets. Join As Society Philippines' Members Tou Feb. 22-March 1, as they visit the try's major highlights including its

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on the northern part of the island of Mindoro in the province of Oriental Mindoro. It is 130 km south of Manila, 14 nautical miles from Batangas City. Travel from Manila to Batangas by land is about two hours. Another hour and a half by boat from the port of Batangas gets you to Puerto Galera.

In the summer, Puerto Galera is packed with Manileños, as though the malls in Makati have relocated to the island. Some times you wonder how to find space for your mat on the beach to catch a share of the sun. At night, speakers from the bars fronting the ocean compete for attention, and the bikini-clad crowd comes alive. Puerto Galera does not promise a quiet getaway.

The island hauls in vacationers by the hundreds but there is only one way to enjoy Puerto Galera: arm yourself with an insatiable thirst for adventure even before you hit the road. There's a chance, though, that you might not want to leave.

White Beach is budget-friendly. Cottage rates can go as low as P800 for a group of four people on weekdays. The island offers limitless dining options. A good variety of cuisine is available at prices almost similar to those in Manila. With a budget from P1,000 up, the activities are endless. The warm white sand is, of course alluring. The clear water, with its angel-white waves, is perfect for skim boarding, jet skiing and parasailing.

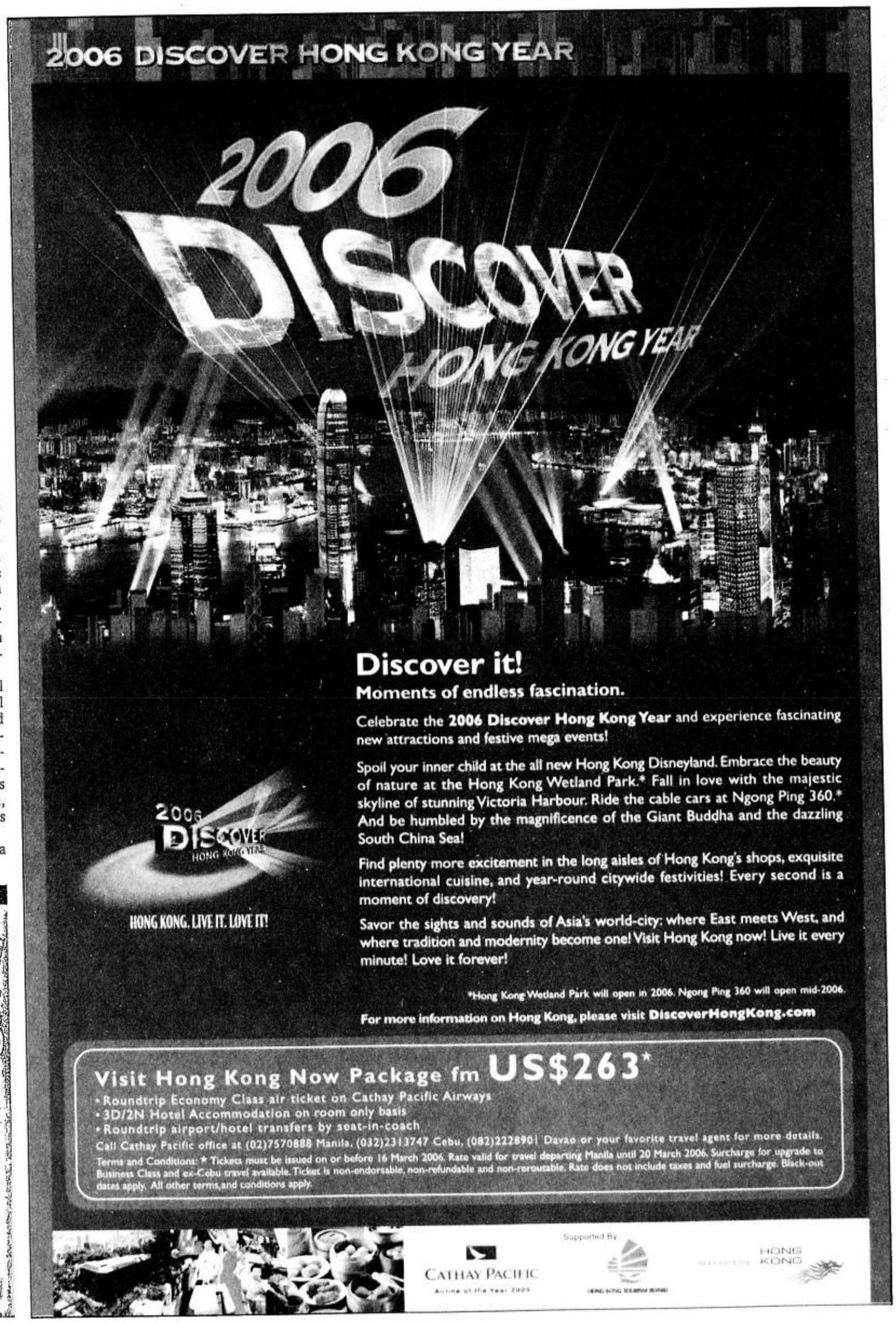
A 20-minute boat ride will take you to a beguiling coral haven where snorkeling and diving simply become irresistible. Medio and Paiquian islands, at the north and northwest, shelter Puerto Galera's Muelle Bay from the open sea, making it one of the world's safest natural harbors.

To the left of White Beach is a cave of about eight meters. Crawling into this tunnel leads you to the island's version of Blue Lagoon. Since Puerto Galera's terrain is generally mountainous, adventure seekers have the option of hiking and exploring the lush greenery for a quieter escapade.

After all the activities, it would be hard to resist the never-ending offers of "Ma'am, *pa*-massage *na kayo*?"

As the sun sets, time just seems to stop for tourists and locals alike, as the blue sky surrenders to and is soon overpowered by the bright salmon glow. Puerto Galera is rightly proud of its awe-inspiring sunset that seems to be over so soon. Then the bars set up lamp-lit tables, and it's time for your dose of Mindoro Sling!

CATCH a share of the sun on the beach.



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two cities, Yangon and Mandalay. Call the Asia Society Philippine Foundation Inc. Office at 7524374, 7519851 or 8108983.

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Special World Cup packages

Emirates Airline is offering passengers the chance to see 2006 FIFA World Cup matches in Germany. The airline, an official partner of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, is giving away thousands of match tickets with its exclusive packages to Germany. Football fans have a choice of flights to four German host cities. The Emirates 2006 FIFA World Cup offers are available immediately and may be booked via travel agents or directly through the airline.

Awards for new hotel

The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong which opened in August was voted Best New City Hotel in the January 2006 issue of Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report, and the Best City Hotel of the Year for 2006 in the annual UK Tatler Travel Guide. Hideaways of the Year described the hotel as a "stunning, chic and contemporary urban sanctuary." The Tatler Travel Guide, on the other hand, said Landmark Mandarin was "elegant and oh-so-chic, but has still managed to mainline all the city's frenzied energy..." The hotel is at the heart of Central. Visit www.mandarinoriental.com

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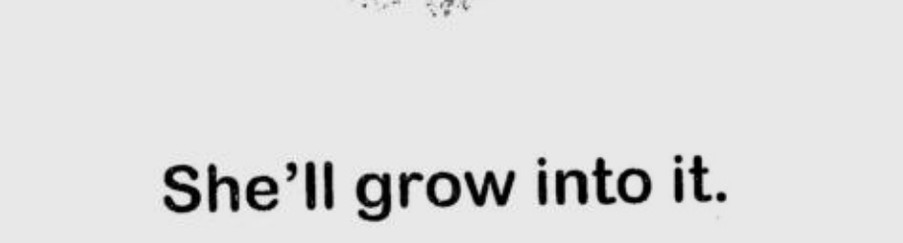

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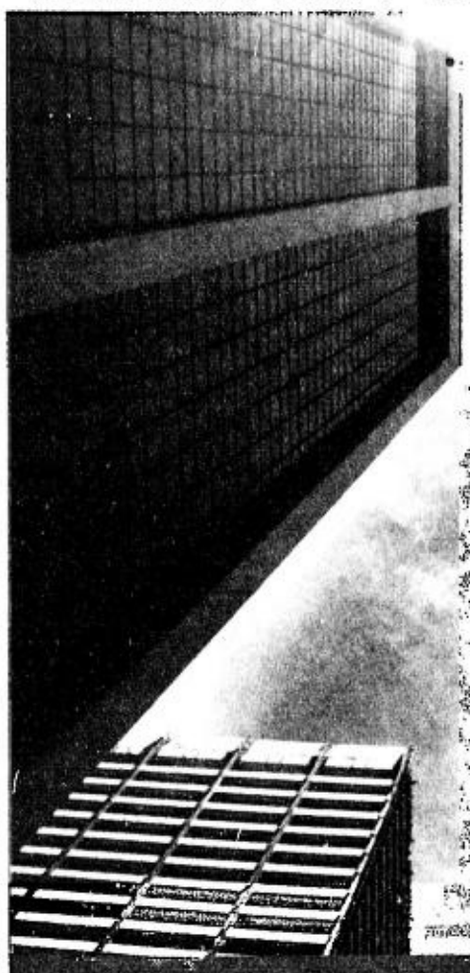

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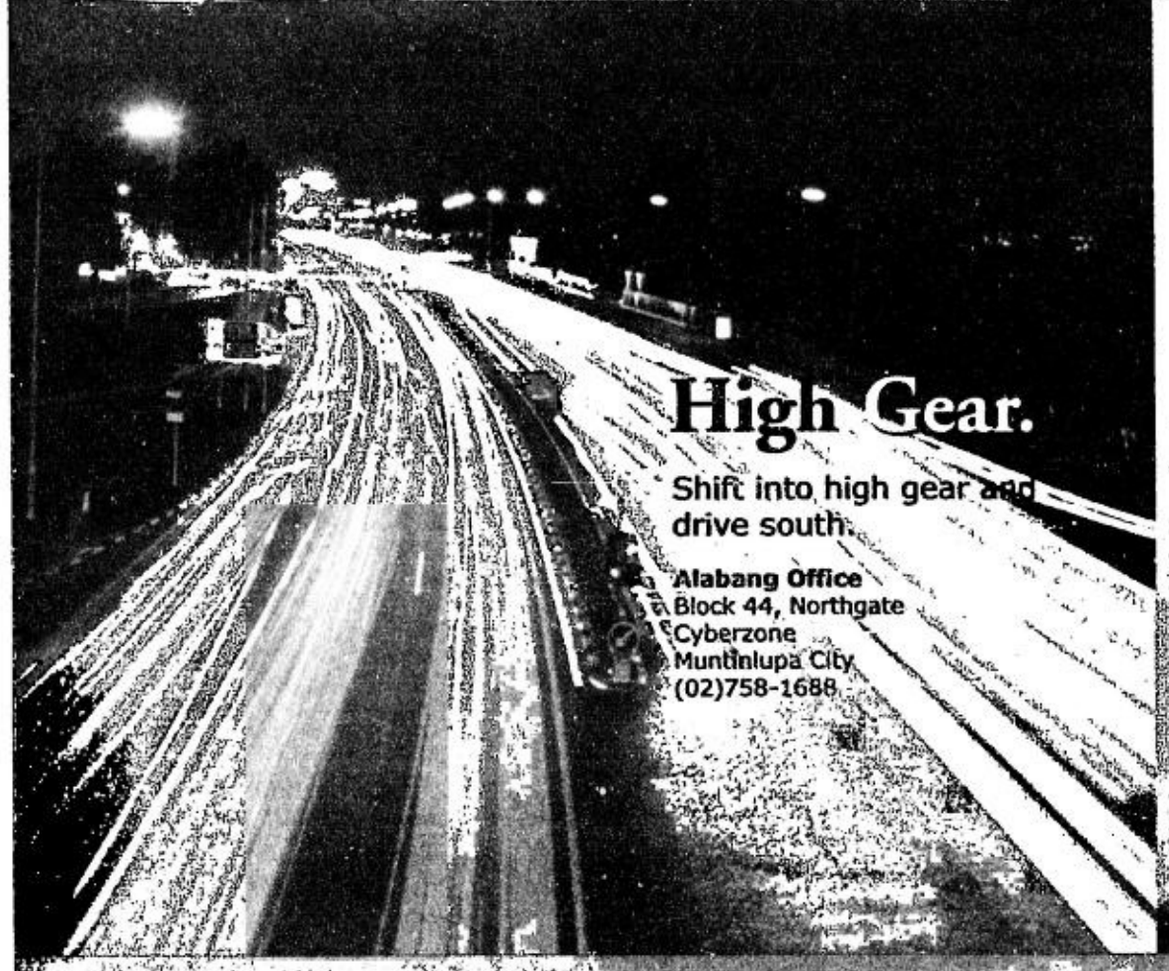

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- Must be a graduate of any engineering course
- With at least 5 years experience

MARKETING COORDINATOR
- Fluent in written & oral English
- Can work under extreme pressure
- Excellent P.R. skills
- Can work flexible hours
- Comprehensive computer knowledge
- Background in chemical and industrial business is an advantage

INVENTORY PLANNING AND CONTROL OFFICER
- Graduate of Accounting
- Willing to work in the field

ARCHITECT
- With expertise in house and swimming pool designs

Send your resumé with 2x2 picture to:
Unit 8 Jolland Townhomes 670-A EDSA, Pasay City
Or email to alschem@trf-isys.com

Monster Outsourcing

Unit 2206, One San Miguel Place Condominium Shaw Blvd., cor. San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center Pasig City
E-mail: jobs@monsteroutsourcing.com

Sr. Microsoft .Net Developer

Location: Manila

The applications consists of a full suite of automated payment transaction logistics for consumers, businesses, and governments. The candidates should have product development cycle discipline, object design experience, and payment knowledge.

We are looking for individuals that are capable of designing and developing enterprise class, multi-tiered, scalable .NET applications in a fast paced team environment.

These applications will be windows and web based.

Other responsibilities may include functional and technical specification write-up, developing test scripts, providing leadership in project activities, estimating resource requirements and providing technical expertise.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

- Male
- Single or Married
- At least 8-10 years experience in structural design and computation
- With experience in residential, apartments, commercial, warehouses
- Can do architectural design as well
- Knows Autocadd drafting
- With good communication skills / can deal with clients with minimal supervision.
- Driving experience is an advantage but not necessary

ONE (1) YEAR CONTRACT
WILLING TO BE POSTED ABROAD
Excellent Salary (will be based on the working experience).

Interested applicants can send resumé via email at:
caribe_architect06@yahoo.com

Philippine Airport and Ground Services GlobeGround, Inc.

An expanding Ground Handling firm engaged in the Airline Business Industry has excellent career prospects for the following positions:

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS/CARGO AGENTS
(Passenger Service/Cargo Service)
- Male/Female 20 to 28 years old
- At least 5'1 in height
- College Graduate and willing to learn new skills
- Service oriented and willing to learn new skills
- Good moral character and presentable in appearance
- Smart and Enthusiastic
- With good command of English both oral and written
- With high sense of responsibility
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends and holidays

OPERATIONS AGENT
- Male, 20-25 yrs. old
- College graduate, presentable appearance
- Good knowledge in geography
- Computer literate
- Service oriented
- Good command of English both oral and written
- Good mathematical understanding
- With high sense of responsibility
- Has the ability to deal with people
- Willing to work on night schedule, weekends & holidays
- Maintain good performance under stress

FLIGHT DISPATCHER
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- College graduate preferably of BS Aeronautical / Aerospace Engineering Course
- ATO Licensed or its FAA equivalent
- Computer literate
- Good command of English both oral and written
- Good mathematical understanding
- With high sense of responsibility
- Has the ability to deal with people
- Willing to work on night schedule, weekends & holidays
- Maintain good performance under stress

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS
- At least 3 years driving experience
- With professional driver's license
- In good physical condition, good eyesight
- Willing to work on shift schedule weekends & holidays
- Good moral character with high sense of responsibility
- With experience in heavy equipments is an advantage

Please send your resumé with contact telephone number and ID picture at:

P.O. BOX 7764
Domestic Airport Post Office
Domestic Road, Pasay City or
Email at: e-calamihos@globeground.com.ph

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Republic of the Philippines
Bids & Awards Committee

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) towards the cost of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for this flagship project of the government in fighting poverty now invites Individual Proponents for the hiring of:

Resource Generation Consultant

The Resource Generation Consultant shall:
- Conduct a comprehensive audit (external, market and constituency, and internal) to identify and assess opportunities and threat that may have an impact on the Project's resource generation efforts. The output of this audit should include specific
- Based on the results of the above, develop a strategic resource generation plan that includes a case statement (key message for the fund-raising appeal), strategies, activities, performance targets, indicators, budget, and timelines. The strategic plan should also include follow through actions on the initial resource generation efforts
- Supervise the initial implementation of the strategic plan and coordinate the work of designated Project staff and DSWD personnel.
- Develop project concepts and write at least two major proposals for submission to donor agencies. This task also includes liaising and negotiating, on behalf of DSWD,
- Take the lead in developing relations with donor organizations/individuals, and develop and maintain a database of donor organizations/individuals.
- Develop training modules on (1) Resource Accessing for LGUs; and (2) Resource Accessing for Community-Based Organizations; and conduct training sessions for the LGUs and/or Communities on resource generation.
- Provide continuing technical assistance on resource generation to Project staff and DSWD personnel.
- Submit a post-engagement report (electronic and hard copies) that documents the strategic resource generation activities and key issues and recommendations relevant to strategic resource generation.

Individuals that have the following qualifications may submit Expression of Interest:
- Undergraduate degree in social science, communications, marketing or management. Master's degree is an advantage.
- Demonstrated capability to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate resource generation campaigns. Must have handled a successful nation/international campaign.
- At least seven years of progressive experience in various aspects of fund-raising, donor relations, project development, and corporate social responsibility.
- Extensive network of contacts in the local/international donor community; familiarity with major donor groups, trends and concerns; proven development, poverty alleviation and institutional reforms.

Interested Applicants may submit a written Expression of Interest, Application Letter and Comprehensive Resume to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat at 2nd floor DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone number 951-7116 until March 3, 2006 at 5:00 PM.

(Sgd.) FLORITA R. VILLAR
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

Philippine Daily Inquirer
JOB Hunter
YOUR ONLINE EDITION TO BETTER JOBS

Lawson Software, a leading multi-national software products company is searching in the Philippines for leading software developers, support and management professionals capable of contributing to industry leading solutions for the world's premier corporations. If you are a professional desiring a stable long-term career rather than one-off projects, and wants to build quality software products for worldwide enterprises, do not hesitate to explore our career opportunities today.

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Mobile Supply Chain Development Manager

- Good working knowledge on full life cycle development in supply chain execution and/or Warehouse Management Systems
- Good working knowledge of Project Planning, Tracking Tools and Procedures
- Sound knowledge of Java, J2EE, Application Servers, XML, SOAP, Visual C++, mobile computing, SQL, database concepts, UML, object-oriented design
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management

Senior Software Engineer – Systems

- Five years of systems programming experience.
- Knowledge of object-oriented analysis, design and programming methodologies and tools
- Significant working experience using UNIX and/or Windows and programming languages such as C/C++, Visual C++ and Java.
- Preferably with experience in COBOL, Prolog or any legacy system
- Proficient problem solving, interviewing and fact finding skills
- Strong analytical and technical skills, team work and organizational skills
- Self-motivation and discipline, ability to multi-task
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

Applications Software Engineer – Retail Solutions

- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management
- Good working knowledge of object-oriented design, analysis, data structures/algorithms, programming methodologies and tools
- Proven track record in developing and supporting the most complex application programs using various programming languages, technologies and development tools
- Sound knowledge of VB6, Desktop and Webclass/ASP; ADO Connections/Commands/Recordsets; embedded ActiveX controls; HTML, DHTML, JavaScript/VBScript, CSS, SML (XSL,XSLT), VB.Net, Windows and Web Applications, SGV (XML Graphics); C/C++

Retail Business Systems Analyst

- Application experience specific to retail business systems
- Experience with business object modeling tools and/or entity relationship modeling tools
- Ability to represent requirement and design information in graphical forms that augment textual representations, including using modeling tools and languages already established in the development organization
- Technical knowledge or experience with one or more of the following: web-based business applications, relational databases, and client server architecture
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management

Information Development Manager

- At least three (3) years management experience
- Experience working in an HTML, XML or similar authoring environment
- Experience working in single-sourcing environment
- Experience working with Content Management System (CMS) such as Documentum, or a source control tool such as CVS
- Experience in a commercial software/systems development environment
- Experience in budgeting and/or P&L
- Experience managing translation/localization process

Technical Writer

- 2 to 6 years technical writing experience, with 2 years software documentation experience
- Ability to write documentation that is technically accurate and conforms to the company's writing style guidelines
- Experience using industry-standard tools such as FrameMaker, RoboHelp, Arbortext Epic, Dreamweaver, and content management systems
- Experience with markup languages, such as XML, SGML, or HTML
- Experience with graphics tools, such as Visio and Paint Shop Pro
- Experience creating deliverables for audiences ranging from end-user to highly technical
- Broad understanding of Information Development processes, procedures, and standards
- Strong planning, research, and writing skills
- Ability to perform effectively in a fast-paced, growth-oriented, rapidly changing company. Excellent time management, problem-solving, analytical/critical thinking, organization skills and cross-functional communication experience

Test Center Manager

- Seven years experience in software development preferably with Java, C/C++ and .Net
- Two years of management experience on systems software organizations.
- Working knowledge of software development life-cycle.
- Knowledge of test methodology, test design, programming methodologies and tools
- Knowledge of source code management and configuration management
- Proven communication skills at all levels (peers, management, customers, and prospects).
- Proven organizational, leadership, and decision making skills.

Senior Software Engineer – Quality

- Proficient creating test designs and test plans and execution of test case/scripts
- Proficient in understanding integration & regression testing
- Proficient in automation test tools and test framework development
- Proficient in various hardware, operating systems, web/application servers and relational databases, ERP Applications and Microsoft office products
- Experience in structured and object oriented application development and SQL programming
- Experience in various programming languages, such as: C, C++, HTML, Cobol, Visual Basic, and Java
- Experience in white box API level testing and defect tracking
- Knowledge of automated testing tools (Rational Robot, Silktest, WinRunner, etc.)

Support Specialists

- Must be able to support and troubleshoot technologies relating to the following: platforms (UNIX/NT, Windows, and iSeries), networks (Microsoft, etc.), languages (COBOL, RPG, Java, Java Script, XML, and HTML), relational databases (Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, and DB2), Tivoli directory server, Microsoft ADAM, O/S scripting and web technologies.
- Must be able to support Lawson user interfaces utilized on all supported platforms.
- Must possess and demonstrate the ability to perform program analysis, testing and debugging and provide team members with assistance in resolving customer problems.
- Must be able to effectively communicate complex technical information with both internal and external customers.
- Must maintain expertise on current and new technologies. Advanced ERP (business and technical), WebSphere and/or database experience preferred.

Unix Systems Administrator

- At least one (1) year of programming experience (ksh, bash)
- Level 1 certification of at least one vendor's Unix operating system and/or equivalent experience
- Solid understanding of general disk management, memory management, process management and general kernel/OS tuning
- Ability to back-up and recover a base server using native OS tools

Senior Applications Administrator

- At least five (5) years experience in applications administration
- Expertise in one or more of the major UNIX OS's in the industry
- At least five (5) years experience in tuning and configuring large enterprise applications in a live customer environment and benchmark environment

Technical Recruiter

- Degree in HR, Business or related field.
- Experience in rapidly ramping up a technical center in excess of 200 personnel.
- 5+ years recruiting & selection experience in a technical environment
- Experience with applicant tracking database methods and technology.
- Ability to staff technical positions in a Sr. Technical Recruiter capacity
- Excellent communication, follow through, organization, prioritization, team work and customer service skills.

Interested candidates may apply at
http://www.lawson.com/about/apply_online.shtml

Additionally other positions for Lawson can also be found at that website.

Previous applicants need not re-apply.
We will respond to qualified candidates only.

Talk2Me Incorporated

**Solutions 77, 6th floor,
Filipino Building, 135 Dela Rosa St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines, 1229
Tel. No. (02) 8131540**

We are a globally outsourced Contact Center that focuses both on inbound & outbound campaigns. We are looking for college graduates of any bachelor's degree to fill up:

(1) Team Leader

- Full time and can start immediately
- At least (6) months of team management experience
- Can interact with clients
- Good coach and motivator
- Very good communication skills

20 Call Center Agents

- Full time and can start immediately
- At least three (3) months of call center experience in outbound or inbound international calls
- Very good communication skills
- New graduates from reputable schools, professionals, retirees are all welcome
- Excellent customer service and phone sales skills

Interested applicants may bring a resume for an immediate interview. Look for Dave and Marie from Monday –Friday, 9am-6pm.

An established, private, not-for-profit, organization working in the field of Enterprise Development

is in need of a

Chief Finance Officer

Requirements:

- Three years in a similar or equivalent position
- Certified Public Accountant
- Computer Know How (MS Word, Excel)

Please forward your letter of application and resumé to **janekslab@yahoo.com** or mail to 1209 West Tower PSEC Exchange Rd., Pasig City, M.M.

ISLAND WIDE FOODS CORP.
Is in need of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

FOR FROZEN MEAT
(CHICKEN MDM, CUTTING FAT, CHICKEN LEG QUARTER)
CAR + SALARY + COMMISSION

- Male or Female, must be college graduate with pleasing personality.
- He/She is in charge of strategizing & achieving sales target nationwide.
- Preferably with previous selling experience of above items to meat processors, supermarkets, wet markets

SECRETARY

- Female, computer literate, college graduate of top university

E-mail: iwfc@globelines.com.ph / fax 725-3678 Landline: 7181153 / 7175023-24

LUZERN INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES CORP.
Unit 202 Casa Malvar Bldg., 1343 Gen. Malvar St.
Cor. Singalong Malate, Manila
Website: www.luzern-intl.com.ph

POEA License: POEA 549-LB-112202-R

NOW HIRING FOR NIGERIA, UNDER AIM CONSULTANTS LIMITED NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

1.	Water Supply Engr. (Design)	3 Positions
2.	Highway Road Engr. (Design)	2 Positions
3.	Civil Engr. (Dredging Supervision)	2 Positions
4.	Civil Engr. Water Supply (Supervision)	2 Positions
5.	Civil/Structural Engineer (Design)	3 Positions
6.	Dam/Geotechnical Engineer (Design or Sup)	2 Positions
7.	Town Planner (Design & Writer)	2 Positions
8.	Architect (CADD & 3D Expert)	3 Positions
9.	Electrical Engineer (Design)	2 Positions
10.	Land Surveyor Exp./In Total Station & GPS	2 Positions
11.	WIFI ISP (Internet) Expert	2 Positions
12.	Air-Conditioning Maintenance Expert	2 Positions

Qualifications:

Must have good moral character
At least with experienced on their respective fields

All applications to be addressed to: LUZERN INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES CORP. and send unfailingly a copy by email to aimlagos@aim-consultants.com / aimteam@aim-consultants.com / **CV's received by E-mail will be treated faster.** Check our website: www.aimgroup.us / www.chocolatroyal.com and click on JOB OPPORTUNITIES. Only shortlisted applicants will be interviewed by phone and email.

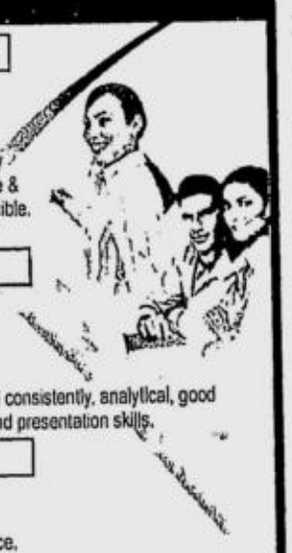
FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
Mag-Ingat sa Illegal Recruiter

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

We are in need of the following professionals:

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Female, not more than 35 years old.
- Must be CPA.
- With 2 years experience in general accounting.
- Must have a keen eye for details, results-oriented, highly organized & systematic, analytical, dynamic with positive & matured disposition, hardworking, trustworthy & responsible.
- Possess excellent written & oral communication skills.



HR SUPERVISOR

- Female, not more than 35years old.
- Must be Psychology or related degrees.
- Expertise in Philippine Employment Law.
- Able to implement strong HR plans and development.
- With the ability to communicate ideas, plans clearly and consistently, analytical, good problem solver, good oral and written communication and presentation skills.

OPERATIONS ANALYST

- M/F not more than 35years old.
- Graduate of Industrial Engineering.
- With 2 years systems and operations analysis experience.
- Excellent written and oral presentation skills.
- Must be able to understand and document the overall business environment and apply the technical requirements necessary to meet the business needs.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female, Accounting graduate, not more than 30 years old.
- Must have at least 2 years experience in general accounting.
- Must have unquestionable integrity, honesty and dependability in all previous employment.
- Should be highly analytical, keen on details and capable of working effectively in fast paced/ multi tasking environment.

We offer above industry based remuneration and benefits.

Interested qualified applicants are requested to apply in person with their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2x2 picture on February 27 to March 3, 2006 from 9:00-12:00 a.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m. at

2983 Antel Global Corporate Center, Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
Or e-mail your comprehensive resume at applyasap@gmail.com

URGENTLY NEEDED:

PHYSICIANS, NURSES, MIDWIVES

Part Time / Full Time – Project Based

Minimum Qualifications:

- Believes in Women's Rights
- Experienced in Family Planning / Reproductive Health Services and Training
- Willing to do outreach work / travel

Please submit your application, latest Curriculum Vitaé and picture (deadline: March 3, 2006)

To : The Executive Director
Women's Health Care Foundation, Inc.
1589 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

Tel. : 924-0717 / 929-9494
Email : whcf@whcf.net

KEY ACCOUNT MANAGERS

For fast moving consumer goods in dietary supplements and derma care.
Website: www.manilacoco.com

We need Key Account Specialists (3) for Key MMA chain stores, with at least 2 years industry experience and outstanding track record, a college degree, glib and pioneering skills. We offer competitive compensation package, on-the-job training, and career prospects to higher management for fast trackers. We promote from within.

OFFICE MANAGER

An administrative assistant to the President/CEO. She must be well versed on telephony, computers, and at least with 3 years experience in general accounting or cost accounting preferably in a manufacturing concern. Familiarity with exports and international trading would be advantageous.
We offer above industry compensation scheme and competitive benefits.

Send resumés with 2x2 photo to:
MANILA COCO BIO-ESSENCE, INC.
1005 Park Trade Center, 1716 Investment Drive,
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1700
or Email to: info@manilacoco.com

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Travel benefits extended to the family • Fun yet professional working environment

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Sales • Travel • Financial Services
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- Strong customer service/sales skills
- Problem solving and analytical skills
- Computer and internet proficiency
- Willing to work shifts

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Monday to Saturday 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
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Also hiring full-time Transcriptionists.

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University Linkages Program Liaison
Communication Trainer (Manila and Cebu)
Technical Training Manager
Professional Development Trainer
Transcription Trainer
Real Estate Trainer
Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila and Cebu)
Course Developer

HUMAN RESOURCES
Recruitment Manager
Employee Relations Officer
Recruitment Officers (Cebu and Davao)
Recruitment Specialist

FINANCE
Payroll Supervisor / Officer
Billing Specialist
Cash Analyst
Accounting Associate
Accounting Analyst

SERVICE DELIVERY
Program Director
Director, Quality Management
Forecast Manager
Workforce Manager
Operations Manager
Team Manager
Team Supervisor
Process and Reporting Analyst

SALES
Business Development Manager

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Telecommunications Manager
Consulting Manager
Telecommunications Engineer
CMS Administrator
Database Administrator
Helpdesk Analyst
Desktop Analyst (Manila & Cebu)

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Senior Attorney
Legal Assistant

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corporateJobs@peoplesupport.com
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www.peoplesupport.com

PEOPLESUPPORT®

Australian Government
AusAID

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible for the delivery of Australia's Development Cooperation Program to the Philippines. AusAID is now seeking the services of Filipino citizens to fill several positions of:

PROGRAM OFFICER – DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Applicants should provide a two to three-page written application, addressing the following key selection criteria:

- Good understanding of development issues and in-depth knowledge of key national and international agencies
- Knowledge of AusAID or other bilateral Development Cooperation Programs (an advantage)
- Demonstrated activity and contract management skills
- Effective work planning, organizing and resource management skills
- Developed people and team skills
- Demonstrated communication, negotiation and representational skills

A capacity to deal with international aid contractors and/or local consultants is essential. A willingness to travel throughout the Philippines, including Mindanao, is also required.

Specifically, applicants should have the following qualifications and attributes:

Two (2) years of experience in program/project development and management preferably in the areas of either trade and private sector development, or rural development, health and education, or Mindanao and related regional peace and development issues
Relevant tertiary qualifications
Experience in working in a team environment and/or as part of a multi-cultural organisation
Experience in dealing with donors, the government, the academe, NGOs and other related institutions
Competency is using office IT and software applications
Capable of performing research/ analysis, and making informed decisions
Responsive, flexible, resilient, results-oriented, resourceful, innovative, creative,and committed to excellence

The successful applicants will contribute to the efficient and effective delivery of the development cooperation program through day-to-day management of ongoing activities and contracts, activity monitoring and reporting, quality policy input, and administrative support within a multi-functional cross cultural team. Under the supervision of the Program Manager-Development Cooperation, the key responsibility areas of the position are:

1. Manage a range of development-oriented activities (programs, projects and facilities) within Philippine Country Program Strategy thematic areas in accordance with relevant AusAID policies, procedures and quality standards.
2. Contribute to the development, formulation and review of policies, programs and activities within Philippine Country Program Strategy thematic areas;
   Contribute to efficient and effective utilization of human, financial, materiel and other resources in accordance with relevant policies and procedures;
3. Contribute to the establishment and strengthening of effective relationships with development cooperation partners and stakeholders;
4. Support to the effective and efficient implementation of corporate programs and priorities;
5. Provide appropriate administrative, logistic and technical support for the implementation of the Development Cooperation Program

The successful applicants will be expected to commence within the next three (3) months. The commencing salary is negotiable within the range of P46,677 – P58,346 per month depending upon qualifications and experience. The position is available on a renewable two (2) year contract.

Kindly forward your written application (2-3 pages), resume (maximum of 4 pages), and two (2) work-related referral letters (preferably addressing the above selection criteria) to the following address by COB Friday, 10 March 2006. Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

THE COUNSELLOR (DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION)
Development Cooperation Section - Australian Embassy
PO Box 1071 Makati Central Post Office, Makati City, 1200

Envelopes should be clearly marked "**PROGRAM OFFICER /AUSAID**". Only those selected for interview will have their applications acknowledged.

AusAID is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and maintains a smoke-free working environment.

ZAMIL STEEL INDUSTRIES

Accreditation No. 76314-2

Our client, Zamil Steel Industries, based in Dammam, Saudi Arabia for its Structural Steel Division and Pressure Vessel and Heat Exchanger Group, has opening for the following positions:

FOR PRESSURE VESSEL AND HEAT EXCHANGER GROUP

FABRICATORS

ITI /High school with Five years experience in a Pressure Vessel Industry.

- Ability to do layout, fit up and assembly of barrels, heads, nozzles and other components for pressure vessels, heat exchangers, etc.
- Must be able to understand and interpret pressure vessels shop drawings, production orders and produce a quality finished products as per the ASME Codes and Standards.

WELDERS

ITI /High school with Five years experience in a Pressure Vessel Industry

- Qualified to ASME Section IX/AWS D1.1 in FCAW/SAW/TIG
- Understand shop drawings, welding codes, standards, WPS, etc

RIGGERS

- High School with Five years experience in rigging of heavy lifting equipment.
- Familiar in safety procedures.

PROJECT ENGINEER

- Degree in Mechanical (or) Civil Engineering
- 5 years minimum experience in a Pressure Vessel Industry
- Ability to plan, organize, monitor and control is also required
- AWS/CNC knowledge if any
- MS Office, Oracle application knowledge
- ISO/HSE awareness

DESIGN ENGINEER

- Degree in Mechanical (or) Civil Engineering
- 5 years minimum experience in a Pressure Vessel Industry
- Ability to plan, organize, monitor and control is also required
- AWS/CNC knowledge if any
- MS Office, Oracle application knowledge
- ISO/HSE awareness

Please report for interview with two (2) sets of resume and two (2) pieces of passport size picture and all pertinent copies of documents to support skills and qualifications. You can also email your resume in MS Word format at isd@isd-phil.com or fill out our On-Line Application form at our web site at www.isd-phil.com.

Company representative will conduct interviews to applicants on February 27 & 28, 2006.

No fees to be collected. Beware of illegal recruiters. For Manpower Pooling Only.

International Skill Development, Inc.
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Award of Excellence

JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2006
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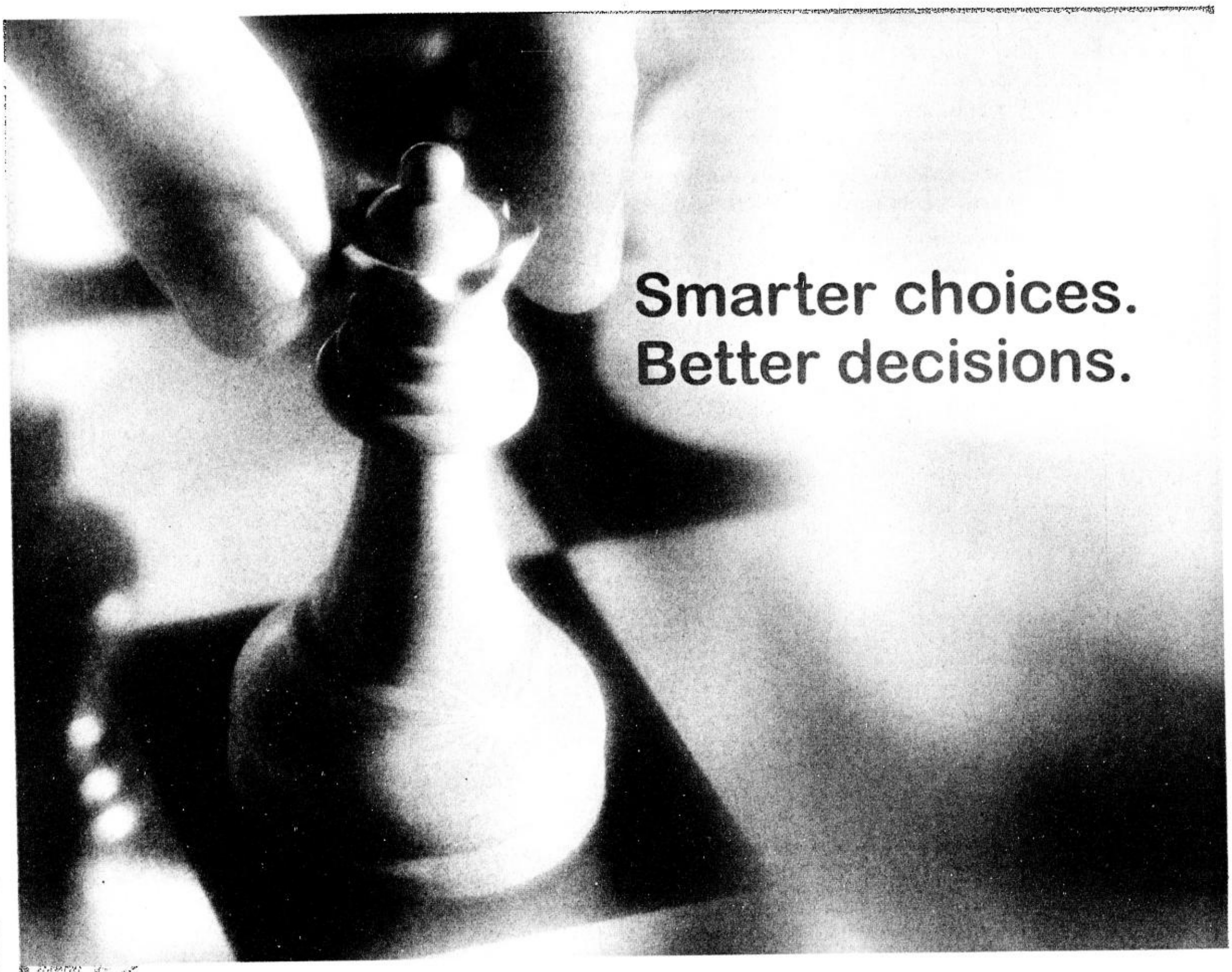
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Where You Find The Best.



In developing critical solutions for our customers, we make decisions without the fear of being wrong. At Dell, we are comfortable with the idea of "more than one right way to do this." In fact, we make decisions even when we don't have all the information on hand. Be a part of Dell and you'd learn that there is a process to eliminate ambiguity for making smarter choices and better decisions.

Careers at Dell. Consider the possibilities.

NOW HIRING

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AGENTS
RESOLUTION SPECIALISTS (L2/L3 Technical Support Agents)
SERVICE LEADS (Team Leaders)

Dell, America's Most Admired Company, is extending its worldwide network of call centers to Metro Manila. We are hiring more than 200 Technical Support Agents to support our global customers who use Dell products for home entertainment and education.

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Or call us at 285 DELL (for details)
Or visit our Recruiting Center: 27/F Tower 2, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. Corner Senator Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City

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Consider the possibilities

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We are looking for success-driven individuals who thrive in a high performing and dynamic organization. Take this opportunity and be part of the country's leading shopping center...JOIN US!!!

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION/TENANT RELATIONS OFFICERS/ RESIDENT ENGINEERS
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- With experience in property/tenant management and/or building administration
- Preferably licensed Mechanical/Electrical/Civil Engineers/Architects
- For Resident Engineers, background in electromechanical equipment will be a plus
- With attributes of leadership and tenacity
- With good sense of judgment; confident and smart

DESIGN OFFICERS
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- Preferably licensed Architects/or with two years experience in architectural design and drafting, preferably in vertical construction
- Knowledge in Autocad will be an advantage
- Highly creative

VISUAL DISPLAY OFFICERS
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- Two years related supervisory experience in art works
- Graduates of Architecture or Fine Arts, major in Interior Design
- Highly creative and artistic

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- Preferably CPAs
- With supervisory experience preferably with auditing background
- Can work effectively under pressure; tenacious

NURSES
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- Must be registered/licensed
- Preferably with experience in industrial or hospital setting

MARKETING OFFICERS
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- With two years extensive supervisory experience in marketing, advertising, promotions and events management
- Graduates of Marketing, Communication Arts or any four-year business course
- Creative, innovative, sensitive to current market trends
- Confident and smart

TREASURY OFFICERS/ SUPERVISORS
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- With at least two years experience in cash management functions
- Graduates of any four-year business course
- With unquestionable integrity

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE SUPERVISORS
(Clark, Lipa, Bacolod)
- With supervisory experience in security and safety operations, preferably gained in a mall/retail business enterprise
- Willing to work in shifting schedule
- Graduates of Criminology or any related course
- 5'2" in height for female and 5'6" in height for male

LEASING SUPERVISORS
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- With supervisory experience in property/tenant management
- A strong background in customer service and experience in sales will be an advantage
- Graduates of any four-year course, preferably in Marketing, Business Administration or Finance/Accountancy or background in Marketing, Operations or Accounting will be a plus
- Can work effectively under pressure

OPERATIONS SUPERVISORS, FOOD COURT/THEATER
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- With experience in fastfood/restaurants/ cinema operations or amusement centers in a supervisory capacity
- With strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Graduates of any four-year business course
- Can work effectively under pressure

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- Preferably with warehousing background
- Graduates of any four-year business course

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICERS/SUPERVISORS
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- With supervisory experience in HR functions, i.e., recruitment, compensation and benefits, performance management and employee relations
- Graduates of Behavioral Science or related courses
- Background in Labor Laws will be an advantage
- Can relate effectively to different levels in the organization

ITS ASSOCIATES
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- With two years experience in repair, maintenance and troubleshooting of PC and cash register is an advantage
- Graduates of Electronics, Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
(ACCOUNTING/HUMAN RESOURCES/TREASURY/ ADMINISTRATION/CUSTOMER SERVICE/OPERATIONS)
(Lipa, Bacolod)
- Graduates of BS Accountancy, Psychology/Behavioral Science, or any four-year business course
- Work experience is an advantage but not necessary
- Can work effectively under pressure and with minimal supervision
- With strong commitment to customer satisfaction

Interested applicants who:

POSSESS EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS • ARE COMPUTER LITERATE • ARE CUSTOMER-ORIENTED AND PEOPLE-ORIENTED

may send resumé with 2" x 2" recent ID picture:

Sr. Assistant Vice President-Human Resources
SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
SM Corporate Offices, Bldg. B, 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City
Or e-mail to jmm@smsupermalls.com

F1 1

DISCON 2006
SUPPLEMENT

A special publication will be released on March 3, 2006 for the Rotary International District 3830 Conference on March 3 & 4, 2006 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza.

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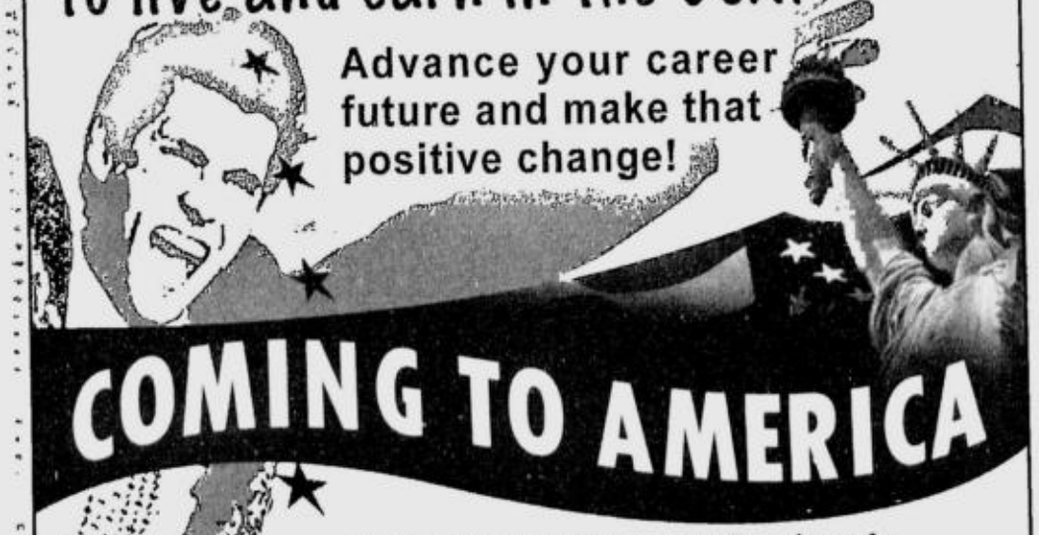

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A Seminar For All Professionals Who Are Thinking Of Working in US

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- Is America right for you?
- Teaching Profession – A rising opportunity
- Learn how to become a US licensed teacher for all bachelor's degree holders (any course)
- Learn how to make this happen for you!

AMERICA NEEDS 1 MILLION TEACHERS THIS DECADE!

A new law has been passed that gives an opportunity to anyone with a bachelor's degree – no need to go back to school or teaching experience required.

Date: March 4, 2006 (Saturday)
Venue: Roof Deck - Prestige Tower F. Ortigas Jr. St., (Emerald Ave.) Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Time: 10:00 am

Limited slots only! Call us to reserve a seat:
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On **March 6 & 7, Inquirer's Job Market** will host the year's first **JOBZ: Employment Expo** at the **Glorietta Activity Center.** As always, some of the country's top corporations will participate in this two-day job fair in the search for eager and qualified applicants.

To all job seekers and career shifters, we hope to see you there!

For more details, visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com or call any of our Inquirer Classified Ads Branch.

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QUEZON CITY: ST ANTHONY'S BLDG., 891 AURORA BLVD., CUBAO, QC ☎ 912-9008 to 10 🖷 912-9011 cubao_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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MANILA: G/F TRINITY BLDG., T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA ☎ 537-3342 / 528-0183 528-0186 🖷 528-0213 manila_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

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- **Public Transportation.** Contact center is conveniently located on a bus route, so you don't have to worry about fighting traffic or finding a ride to work.
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Agent Opportunities:

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- Customer Service Representatives
- Teleservices Representatives
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- Operations Managers

Excellent English oral and written communication skills required.

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Exceptional compensation package and excellent benefits await the candidates including:

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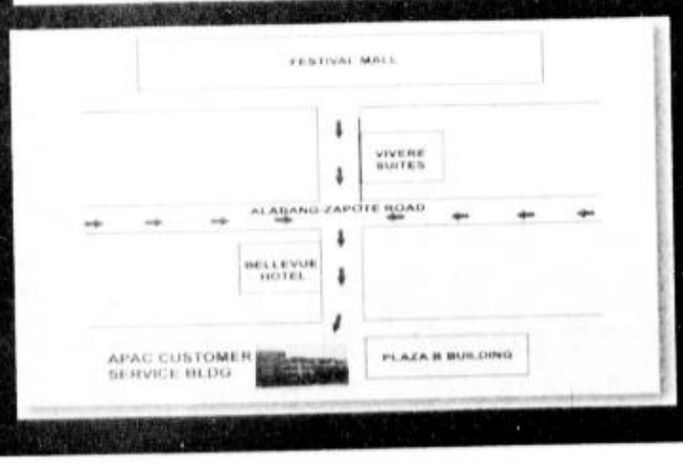
Mondays thru Fridays, from 9 am to 6 pm
Or call us at: 7576500 or 7576566

Apply online: recruitment@apacmail.com
Or visit our website: www.apaccustomerservices.com



SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
a subsidiary of National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation

The **Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC)**, is in need of hardworking, honest and committed personnel to fill-up the following key positions

Executive Vice-President – Graduate of any related business course; 8 years supervisory experience w/ 3-5 years exposure in processing, documentation, collection servicing particularly for socialized housing projects; with ability to conceptualize new programs and other fund sourcing activities.

Vice-President for CMP Operations – Bachelor's degree pref. in Finance, Accounting, LLB, or other related business course; 6 years supervisory experience with 3-5 years experience in loan & mortgage operations (processing, accounting management, individualization)

Vice-President for Finance & Administration – Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, LLB or other related business course; 6 years supervisory experience with 3-5 years experience in financial or administrative management covering the areas of financial reporting & analysis, budgeting administrative systems & procedures. Must have in-depth knowledge on financial procedures & administrative management.

Vice-President for Treasury – Bachelor's degree pref. in Accounting, Economics, Management, Management of Financial Institutions or other related business course; 6 years supervisory experience with 3-5 years experience in cash management, fund sourcing and custodianship.

Vice-President for Management Services – Bachelor's degree pref. in Management, Industrial Engineering, Statistics, Planning; 6 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in planning, policy formulation, IT, MIS, public affairs & info.

Board Secretary & Legal Counsel/Compliance Officer – Lawyer; 6 years supervisory experience with 3-5 years experience as corporate secretary or as compliance officer in a financial institution

Internal Audit Manager – CPA; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in audit work pref. in a financial institution.

Legal Manager – Lawyer; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in litigation, documentation, counselling

Information Systems Manager – Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or other IT equivalent; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in systems analysis, programming & design, dev't of web sites & administration, D-Base, computerized accounts servicing, systems and procedures.

Planning Manager – Bachelor's degree pref. in Economics, Finance, Planning or other related business course; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in policy formulation, planning, forecasting

Public Affairs Manager – Bachelor's degree pref. in Mass Communications, Journalism or other relevant degree; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in public affairs and information work

Finance & Controllership Manager – CPA; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in financial management, covering the areas of financial reporting, budgeting, taxation, financial controls and procedures.

Administration Manager – Bachelor's degree pref. in Psychology, Management, Behavioral Science or related courses; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in other areas of HR such as Benefits, Payroll, Timekeeping, Building & Office Administration, Training & Org. Dev. Strong background in labor and human relations would be a distinct advantage

Cash Management Manager – CPA; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in management of cash, investments, control systems with regard to the handling of corporate funds

Custodianship Manager – A graduate of any business related course; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in safekeeping, monitoring of mortgage documents, control systems with regards to management of financial & legal documents.

Project Accreditation, Evaluation & Monitoring Manager – A graduate of any business related course; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in project evaluation, accreditation particularly for CMP projects

Technical Services Manager – Bachelor's degree with license in Civil Engineering, Geodetic Engineering, Architecture, 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in real estate appraisal, technical know-how on subdivision projects, familiarity in BP220 and PD 957 and other related housing laws.

Loan Examination Manager – Commerce graduate pref. CPA; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in loan processing for housing loans or other relevant activities.

Mortgage Operations Manager – LLB graduate pref. member of the Bar; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in loan processing for housing loans or other relevant activities

Accounts Management Manager – Bachelor's degree pref. in Accounting, Finance, Management or other related business course; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in accounts management & servicing, with strong ability to formulate collection strategies/schemes and programs

Project Individualization Manager – Bachelor's degree pref. in Accounting, LLB or other related business course; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in the evaluation of subdivision documents and determination of subdivision of title and loan.

Trust Administration Manager – Bachelor's degree pref. in Accounting, Finance, LLB or other related business course; 5 years supervisory experience with 2-4 years experience in management and control of trust funds and processing of developmental loans.

All applicants must be computer literate.

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé (stating position applied for), transcript of records, recent 2x2 picture to our Admin. Dept at 4/F Filomena Bldg. 104 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village Makati from Mon-Fri, 8:00 - 5:00 pm on or before March 8, 2006.

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The country's most widely read and circulated paper in the country is in need of

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to oversee the sales and distribution operations of distributor partners across the country

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduate of top universities
- Highly motivated; aggressive and hardworking;
- Results oriented
- Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills both English and Filipino;
- Willing to be relocated
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
e-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

TSM SHIPPING (PHILS.), INC.

IS NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

4 ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Accounting graduate
- Female, single, not more than 28 years old
- with working experience
- familiar with Shipnet is an advantage

Also in need of:

IT Manager

- Single, male, not more than 35 years old and has experience in a multinational working environment.

Please email your resumé or apply personally to:

Ms. Cristina G. Paras – Asst. General Manager/G.A. Manager
DL. 551-9095
cristina.paras@tsmphil.com.ph

TSM HOUSE 1747 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City
Tel. No. 551-2808 to 14 / 831-1868

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WE INVITE QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ON THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES FOR THE VESSELS OF ONE OF OUR PRINCIPALS,

BARBERSHIP MANAGEMENT LIMITED
ACCREDITATION NO. 24791-13

FOR SEISMIC/ SURVEY VESSELS

- 2ND OFFICER
- 2ND ENGINEER
- 3RD ENGINEER
- FITTER
- ABLE BODIED SEAMAN
- MOTORMAN
- CHIEF STEWARD
- CHIEF COOK

*Must have Survey/Seismic experience for at least 3 years in the position applied for

FOR PCC, BULK VESSELS

- MASTER
- CHIEF OFFICER
- 2ND OFFICER
- CHIEF ENGINEER
- 3RD ENGINEER

*Preferably 45 years old and below

*With minimum 3 years relevant sea experience for the position applied for

QUARTER MASTER (AB) OILER (MOTORMAN)

(FOR CRUISE VESSEL)

*35 years old and below
*BSMT/BSME graduate
*With minimum 3 years relevant sea experience for the position applied for

WIPER

*30 years old and below
*With minimum 1 year relevant sea experience

MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN/ SEISMIC TECHNICIAN & BOAT OPERATOR

*Preferably 35 years old below
*With experience as Fitter or Junior Engineer is a plus factor
*Have a working knowledge in hydraulic system
*Have experience in using small machine tools, welding, etc.

FITTER / ELECTRICIAN

*Preferably 40 years old below

*Holder of UNITOR certificate is a plus factor

FOR ABOVE REQUIREMENTS:

- COMPETITIVE WAGES
- OFFERS STEADY LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT
- CONTINUOUS CAREER GROWTH
- ON-TIME ALLOTMENT
- VACATION LEAVE - PAID MONTHLY ONBOARD
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STUDENT APPLICANTS CAN REPORT PERSONALLY TO NFD WEARING UP AREA T-SHIRT AND BRING YOUR ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

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Tel. Nos. 816-0032 / 817-0381

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QUEST GROUP OF COMPANIES
is urgently in need of the ff:

1 SALES ENGINEER (QAT)

- Graduate of any 4 year course preferably Engineering Course
- With 2 years experience in sales preferably in Construction Industry
- Knows how to drive and with valid driver's license
- Female, single or married, 25-35 years old

1 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (QAT)

- Electrical Engineering Graduate, preferably licensed
- With 2 years experience in estimating preferably in Construction Industry
- Familiar with electrical plans and materials
- Familiar with electrical codes and standards
- Knows how to take off electrical materials
- Must have experience in building Electrical Construction
- Male or Female, single or married, 25-35 years old

1 SERVICE TECHNICIAN (QTC)

- Technical Course Graduate, preferably Electronics
- Knowledge in Pneumatics/Cleanroom/Instrumentation/Equipment Calibration and ISO oriented.
- Understands Schematic Diagram of Electronic Circuits
- Can drive and has a valid driver's license
- Male 20-30 years old / Single or Married

2 SALES ENGINEERS (QTC)

- Engineering Graduate
- Should have existing interface with Semicon and Pharma Industry
- Has knowledge in cleanroom / cleanroom testing / cleanroom monitoring equipment
- Can develop and maintain clients
- Can drive and has a valid driver's license
- Make 25-35 years old / Single or Married

ABOVE POSITIONS REQUIRES THE FF:

- ✓ Computer Literate
- ✓ Good written and oral communications
- ✓ Able to work with minimal supervision
- ✓ Willing to extend work hours
- ✓ Dedication to work and willingness to share and learn ideas
- ✓ Team worker

Qualified applicants are required to submit their resumé personally no later than March 08, 2006 at Lot 7 A-2 Sooner Farm Cmpd., Bo. Timbao Biñan, Laguna Tel. Nos 6700-5164 to 65

INAEC Development Corporation

INAEC Development Corporation is a company engaged in property development and maintenance.

The Company is in need of personnel with strong orientation on results, details, teamwork, and customer focus for its building and hotel operations

Marketing Manager

- Graduate of Marketing, Business Administration, and/or Management
- Minimum of 5-year related work experience from the hotel and service industry
- Able to create and implement marketing strategy
- Excellent communication and interpersonal relations skills

Marketing Staff

- Graduate of Marketing, Communication, and/or Public Relations
- Minimum of 2-year related work experience from the hotel and service industry
- Able to effectively manage corporate accounts
- Excellent presentation and interpersonal relations skills

Accounting Staff

- Certified Public Accountant, Graduate of Accounting and/or Finance
- Minimum of 3-year related work experience from the service industry
- Able to effectively implement generally accepted accounting principles
- Excellent technical and interpersonal relations skills

IT/ Administrative Staff

- Graduate of Information Technology and/ or Computer Science
- Minimum of 2-year work experience as a systems specialist
- Able to effectively manage and troubleshoot WIFI Internet connections
- Excellent technical and interpersonal relations skills
- Successful candidate shall be based in Antipolo City

Facility Engineer

- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Minimum of 5-year work experience on facility upkeeping and maintenance
- Able to effectively manage civil works and create project management plans
- Excellent technical and interpersonal relations skills
- Successful candidate shall be based in Antipolo City

Interested applicants are encouraged to send their resumé, 1x1 picture, and transcript of records to:

HR and Administration
INAEC Development Corporation
2nd Floor, Benpres Building
Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Commercial Center, Pasig City

F1 DISCON 2006 SUPPLEMENT

A special publication will be released on March 3, 2006 for the **Rotary International District 3830 Conference** on March 3 & 4, 2006 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza.

For interested advertisers, you may contact **Ms. Aileen Garcia** at **912-9009 / 421-1420** or email **agarcia@inquirer.com.ph**

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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We are in need of

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS

to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- ✓ Will supervise a sub-distributor partner and help grow the business.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduates from the localities;
- Highly motivated; Aggressive; Hardworking;
- Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
- Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced, dynamic and flexible environment.
- Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus.
- Applicants must be living within either Pampanga, Bataan, Zambales, Nueva Ecija or Tarlac.

Send your ***Resume*** to **GQY Distribution Group Inc.** at **GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores, San Fernando Pampanga** or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for **Mr. Jess Yap**.

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We are in need of

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Interested in selling Inquirer newspaper in the following areas in Central Luzon: Pampanga, Bataan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

Send your ***Resumé*** to:
GQY Distribution Group Inc.
(exclusive distributor of Inquirer Newspaper)

Dolores Homesite Extension (near Jun-Jun's Bibingka Rest., McArthur Highway) City of San Fernando Pampanga or call/fax (045) 961-4048
please look for ***Mr. Jess Yap***

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

REPORTER – Business Section

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or Mass Communications
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Interpersonal Skills and Research Skills
- Must have 2 years experience in Business coverage

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

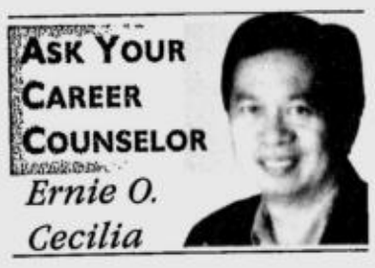
'Are there new job-hunting strategies that work?'

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

I GRADUATED FROM REPUtable school almost two years ago, hoping that the name of the school would be my passport to a great career. I sent my resumé to every conceivable large multinational company and had my resumé on the online database, but I am still jobless today.

Are there proven ways to get an edge over other job applicants? What are the human resource people really looking for when they are screening job applicants? I will appreciate it if you can give it to me straight, so that I can adjust my job-hunting strategies and finally land a job.

Desperate Job Hunter



Thank you for giving me the license to "give it to you straight." On some occasions, I had sounded like Simon Cowell (the British judge in American Idol) to many jobseekers. I recall having disappointed an ambitious person who has nothing but sheer ambition—no skills, no EQ, no savvy, and has not exerted any effort to develop job hunting skills. I simply said, "I don't mean to be rude, but how can you expect so many returns without ever making an investment in yourself?"

If you think that's appalling, try listening to Simon shock American Idol wannabes by telling them, "God, that's ugly!" or "That's the most disgusting performance I've ever seen!" or "You have absolutely no talent at all!"

Harsh realities

Getting a job in a multinational company is never an easy task. Believe me for I spent 25 years of my HR career in three of the top multinationals in the industry and I know how hard it is for job applicants to get a foot in their door.

In the first place, there aren't too many vacant positions in multinationals. In fact, they often downsize their organizations; they lay off people and outsource certain functions. Since multinationals are good payers, few employees leave before retirement age. You are perhaps one among the jobless millions seeking to fill up a handful of vacancies in multinationals today. The 1.1 million new jobs created last year (per DOLE report) certainly did not occur in these multinationals, but in agriculture, fisheries and perhaps, service industries.

Compete for few jobs

People think that you have to be the very best to compete with so many for the few job openings in multinationals. In my experience, I have realized that the person who usually gets hired for the job is not necessarily the one who knows best how to do the job, but someone who knows best how to get hired.

At best, schools teach you how to do a job, not how to get a job. They don't teach you where to get the job they prepare you for, what to do with your first paycheck, how to avoid getting stuck in the rat race, how to extricate yourself from the quagmire of the credit card, and other things that employees wish they knew before they step into their first job.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Many years ago, we had a research about difficulties experienced by companies in filling up entry level positions. The study showed that many good accountants and engineers never get hired because they do not know how to communicate and create an impact during the hiring process. Many job applicants know how to do the job, but they never get to the point where they can do the job, because they never make it to the short list.

The job interview is usually a difficult stage, especially if you don't care about your appearance and can't express yourself well. I don't suggest that you overdress or have a Bostonian accent. Just wear neat, appropriate business attire and talk straight English—it's still the language of business.

HR's job

I wish to correct wrong impressions about HR departments. The job of HR is not to give jobs to jobseekers. The only time that you can get the HR person's attention is if he thinks that you match the job. His job is to fill up a vacancy—not to give you a job. To get his attention, write a resumé that helps him match you with the vacancy.

Whenever I review a resumé, I look for the competencies possessed by the job applicant. When a resumé seems like a jigsaw puzzle to me, I simply throw it away. Guess what most resumés highlight—color of the eyes, color of the hair, height, and other irrelevant personal information that say nothing about the applicant's ability to do the job. (Never send a biodata that can be bought from the bookstore.)

Most resumés highlight work experiences—what one has done, rather than what he can do. This explains why many people get stuck in the careers they hate.

Get an edge

Multinationals continually get a deluge of job applications, either online, by mail or from walk-ins. If you want to have an edge over other job applicants, follow the tips which appear in my books at popular bookstores, "How to Get a Job" and "How to Keep Your Job."

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

Communicating the organization's vision

PEOPLE AT WORK AND THE Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from last month's survey are **Artemio C. Barbosa** and **Venus Velasco**. (Please contact Ateneo CORD at 426-5931 to claim your prizes).

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

1. Does your company have a vision?
   a. Yes
   b. No
2. Who was involved in the crafting of the vision?
   a. Business leaders/founders
   b. Human Resources
   c. Managers/supervisors
   d. Staff
   e. All of the above
   f. Others: _____
3. If you were asked to state your vision would you be able to articulate it?
   a. Yes, I know it by heart/I memorized it.
   b. I know the gist.
   c. I can state it but I don't understand it.
   d. I have no idea what it is.
4. How is this vision communicated throughout the organization? Choose all that applies.
   a. Orientation of new hires
   b. Memos/written communication
   c. E-mail
   d. Company ID
   e. Company newsletters
   f. Meetings/presentations
   g. Advertising/marketing campaigns
   h. Plaques/engravings in offices/lobbies
   i. Behavior modeling of leaders
   j. In culture-building activities
   k. Company-wide events
   l. Incorporated in performance deliverables
   m. Others: _____
5. As an employee, what is the impact of knowing your organization's vision? Choose all. that applies.
   a. No impact at all
   b. Increased company loyalty
   c. Increased sense of empowerment
   d. Find more meaning in my job
   e. Improved work relationships
   f. Increased productivity
   g. Better understanding of business decisions
   h. Greater business knowledge
   i.Others: _____

Name:_____
Gender: _____ Age:____ Status: _____
Nature of the Job: _____ Position: _____
Company name: _____
Industry:_____ No. of years working:_____
Tel/Mobile/E-mail:_____

Mail this form to: People at Work Pulse, Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development, 2nd flr. Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or fax to 426-6065, e-mail ateneocord@admu. edu.ph or text answers to 0920-831-9522. Write: topic 1.(answer), 2. (answer), etc. name, gender, age, status, position, address, contact numbers or e-mail.

Supervisory Leadership Development

March 21, 2006, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Holiday Inn Galleria

The productive or anemic performance of your people and your business depends largely on your supervisors. If they can effectively guide, control and motivate the people, the desired result will be achieved. Unfortunately, supervision is anything but easy. In fact, what often happens is that when a productive worker is promoted to a supervisory position, the company loses an effective worker and gains a poor supervisor. This is known as the Peter Principle and this is largely attributable to lack of fundamental skills and attitude training in supervision. Lack of training is a sure-fire formula for failure. This powerful program is designed to equip and empower the Supervisors by providing them the fundamental and advanced concepts and tools to professionalize their management style and enable them to effectively lead their team.

LEARNING SEED

Session I : Why Some Supervisors Fail
Session II : Becoming a Supervisor
Session III : Some Nuts And Bolts of Supervision
Session IV : Planning and Goal Setting
Session V : Leading Your People
Session VI : How to Motivate for Result

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

* New or recently promoted supervisors with less than three years of formal supervisory experience
* Experienced supervisors or managers reentering the job market and looking to update their resumes
* Informal leaders who have an unofficial supervisory role of leading teams of coworkers or volunteers
* Individuals whose career plans include becoming a supervisor in the near future

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PRISM PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Scope of Work

Senior Component Director: Market Development

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for Family Planning services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of Family Planning among **private practice** providers.

The Market Development Component of the project is intended to increase recognition of business opportunities in the hormonal Family Planning commodities market in the Philippines, and to motivate businesses to take advantage of these opportunities. The Senior Component Director for Market Development will be responsible for developing and implementing activities to accomplish these objectives.

General Tasks:

1. Review of project technical proposal and other relevant background documentation, including USAID/Philippines strategic plan, documents from other relevant projects in the Philippines (past and present) such as Commercial Market Strategies (CMS), research results on marketing programs and initiatives, the project's annual work plan, National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS) and Family Planning Survey (FPS) reports, etc.
2. Participate in annual project work planning processes and prepare market development component annual plans.
3. Responsible for preparing the annual budget of the Market Development Component activities, and monitoring and evaluation of these activities.
4. Identify and capitalize on potential synergies in project strategy development and implementation across components.
5. Develop and maintain a database of Family Planning commodity sales, and forecasts of future sales, across the public, social marketing and commercial sectors by type and brand, and develop a national referral network of health service providers and suppliers.
6. Develop and implement a marketing and public relations campaigns to inform project stakeholders about the project, its aims and purposes.

Specific Tasks

On Workplace Initiatives

1. Support marketing inputs to ensure availability of affordable contraceptives for distribution to workplace programs and services.
2. Support companies managing work place initiatives to institute cost recovery mechanisms where necessary.
3. Support companies to analyze the cost benefits of provision of Family Planning services.

On Market Development

1. Maintain close working relationships with the associations of manufacturers, distributors, health providers and pharmacists and drugstore owners engaged in this project.
2. Establish and maintain close working relationships with manufacturers, marketing companies, importers, and distributors of Family Planning commodities and establish linkages and network of suppliers, distributors and retailers.
3. Establish and maintain a working relationship with the LEAD Project for Health to obtain information about business opportunities to market contraceptives to LGUs for distribution through public sector outlets.
4. Ensure that information about LGU business opportunities and other business opportunities such as midwife entrepreneurs and private practice providers flows to contraceptive manufacturers and distributors.
5. Assist manufacturers and distributors to define strategies to take advantage of business opportunities, particularly with respect to introduction of new brands or methods, and pricing.
6. Develop communications programs and campaigns to generate demand for private sector Family Planning products and services.
7. Define and manage a public relations /advertising component with respect to policy and regulatory change important to commercial manufacturers, importers and distributors.
8. Identify policy issues relating to the private sector Family Planning manufacturers, distributors and to the advertising and promotion of Family Planning products and services.
9. Develop and manage relationships with national health policy agencies related to the marketing and retailing of Family Planning commodities.

On Private Practice

1. Support marketing inputs to ensure availability of affordable contraceptives for distribution to midwives and private practice providers participating in project activities.
2. Develop and manage the marketing requirements of its training programs
3. Implement project activities to motivate members of distributors' sales team to encourage private practice health providers to prescribe and/or sell contraceptive products.
4. Supply marketing inputs to the work of health provider associations to promote Family Planning provision among its members.
5. Provide technical advice for the development and implementation of a program to support sales of Family Planning products through drug stores.

Qualifications:

- With at least 20 years experience in marketing acquired in commercial healthcare industry. Experience in marketing of hormonal products, an advantage.
- Strong network/linkage with pharmaceutical companies
- With at least 15 years managerial experience
- Preferably with post-graduate degree
- Excellent in written and oral communications
- Proficient in MS Office (i.e., Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 10th of March 2006. Please indicate the subject of your email as "**Position Code: SCDMD**".

Developing your Supervisory Leadership

ATTENTION: ALL LEADERS. DON'T miss this high-impact program – a distillation of important leadership principles and concepts, effective strategies, insightful ideas and inspiring stories and practical application derived from John Maxwell, Jack Welch, and other Leadership gurus. It is slated on Feb. 24, 1–5 p.m. at RCBC, Makati

The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Mr. Jesse Rebustillo, the Head of Classified Ads Division of Philippine Daily Inquirer. He is a frequent resource speaker on supervision and leadership.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

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Cruise ship waiter sails through life's challenges

By Ruth M. Floresca
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

FOR THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, Angel O. del Rosario Jr. has been visiting various countries all over the world on board a luxury liner. From the sultry islands of the Caribbean to exotic Mediterranean territories and the Alaskan coasts among many others, he has seen amazing sights and been to fantastic places that most of us could only hope to see all in a lifetime.

Here, Del Rosario shares the delights and desolation Filipino overseas workers experience while working on a cruise ship.

Promising beginning

Del Rosario initially worked as a fine dining waiter in a restaurant in one of Manila's prominent hotels for one year and gained a lot of experience in dealing with affluent clients in the process. He then transferred to a bar at another hotel where he stayed for another three years.

In 1997, two years after getting married and with an infant to plan a brighter future for, Del Rosario decided to try his luck and applied as waiter onboard a cruise ship. After three interviews and several months' waiting, he was called to fly to Italy and meet his ship in September.

"It was an exciting though sad time for me," he recalls. "Leaving my wife and barely a half-year-old son is heartbreaking but I had to pursue better opportunities for all our sakes." Together with several other Filipinos, Del Rosario embarked on a wonderful journey that brought him to exciting lands and enabled him to meet numerous people along the way.

Perks

Cruise ship employees have the option to sign a contract for only eight months out of a year if they want to. This enables Del Rosario to be with his family more often than other overseas Filipino workers or OFWs who don't have the same privileges.

In the ship, food is never a problem, "We can eat as much as we want to although there are times I feel like foregoing steak for long time," says Del Rosario humorously. He recounts meeting a wealthy Filipino family once who, after several days of rich food and wine, were asking for plain sardines towards the end of the journey. "Different cuisines are exciting for the first several months but we do end up longing for Filipino food." Since the ship's crew is comprised of 60 to 70 percent Filipinos, a project on opening a Filipino store on board pushed through. "Now we can buy *bagoong* and other *Pinoy* stuff anytime," he grins.

Waiters are given different uniforms appropriate to the meals they serve. They even have one formal suit each. He shares, "One other good thing in the ship is, we don't have to wash our clothes and do the bothersome task of pressing them. We just label them, put them in bags and send them to the laundry room where crew assigned for those chores send them back clean and pressed."

Del Rosario also appreciates the fair treatment that the management metes out on everyone. "Whether you're a Portuguese, Filipino, Italian or British, when you commit an offense, you are sent home or given disciplinary action," he explains. "We can freely air out our complaints, requests and work-related problems to our supervisors, the purser or even up to the captain without fear of unfair judgment or procrastination on their part."

During their off-hours, members of the crew can avail of some activities that the guests also enjoy. "We can go scuba-diving or sight-seeing inland when we have free time," Del Rosario shares. The management also allows the crew to hold themed fun activities on board such as pajama parties, karaoke nights and other similar activities, aside from the usual Christmas get-togethers.

Downside

On his very first trip, Del Rosario already experienced seasickness due to a fierce storm. Waves eight stories high buffeted the ship and tossed everything about, shattering a lot of breakables and wreaking havoc on everyone's stomachs. Now, he's already used to bad weather and knows enough to stay in his room to ride out the nausea and headaches by taking tablets given at the pharmacy. "When there's a storm, everybody is advised to stay in their rooms for safety reasons so there are no guests to serve in the dining room anyway."

He recalls, "The first time I got a glimpse of the harbor view from a hotel window in Naples, Italy and marveled at the profusion of beautiful flowers and majestic houses built on sides of the hills, how I wished I had my wife beside me." He felt the same way on other numerous occasions. The homesickness he says will always be there but he compensates by buying prepaid cards and utilizing the satellite phone provided on board the ship to call home often.

On doing one's job well

Del Rosario has been assigned to different ships, owned by the mother company, with various route destinations worldwide over a period of eight years. "I have served passengers of different nationalities and have even made friends with some of them," he reveals. He admits to paying special attention to the elderly guests who appreciate being talked to often such that there are those who still keep in contact through letters even when Del Rosario is home in Philippines.

DEL ROSARIO

"There was also someone who sent me Reggie Miller souvenirs once he got home to Atlanta when he found out I was also a big fan," he imparts. His wife Juliet happily discloses that one passenger thoughtfully sent shirt pins shaped like angels to the whole family. An American couple who thoroughly enjoyed their stay promised Del Rosario to come back for another cruise package after five months and they did!

Aside from the basic pay he receives, Del Rosario often gets generous tips and gifts from pleased passengers after the end of every trip. Indeed, the way his clients show their appreciation to this friendly waiter who performs his duties to the satisfaction of those he serves is affirmation enough that he is doing the right thing.

Getting focused

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

GETTING FOCUSED IS ONE IMPORTANTAND NECESSARY PERsonal trait to be efficient and effective in one's profession or business. One needs to harness all his knowledge and skills in the performance of his job or business. Success in one's work or enterprise largely depends on how much priority and centeredness one applies to it. However, it can also happen that those who concentrate all their energies at their work could become narrow-minded, indifferent to others and to the world outside or perhaps even become resistant to any change in work or methods of working. Such kind of focusing would seem to ruin in the long run the worker, his profession or even the business he is in. Soon enough, it will make the worker out of step with his work and his environment.

To stay on track in this fast-changing world of today, the worker, or anyone for that matter, needs to have a better way of focusing which looks at not only on the things at hand or actions being taken but also and more especially at the deeper meaning of things and the higher motivations of the actions to be taken. He needs to adopt a new perspective—renewed "eyes"—in order to see new avenues in the workplace.

This new way of perceiving and understanding is like the "new wine" Jesus mentions in today's Gospel—an understanding based on faith in His teachings. But this "new wine" as He said, needs also "fresh wineskins"—a renewal in the worker's mind and heart, which will make him savor his work as a more meaningful and satisfying experience than the boring and monotonous load it used to be. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Gospel: Mark 2: 18-22

"Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

Flexibility

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WINESKINS CAN BE SEEN NOT JUST AROUND VINEYARDS OR IN places where there is wine. They can be right in your place of work. Because for me, the wineskins in today's Gospel could also refer to people—and the "old" and the "new" have nothing to do with age. Rather, the word "wineskins" evokes an image of flexibility or lack of it. And what they're supposed to contain—wine—may be likened to ideas that are poured into people's minds. There are people advanced in age but who still remain open to new ideas, while there are those who may be under 30 but are already rigid in their thinking. Thus, one's flexibility or inflexibility is not determined by chronological age; instead, it's the attitude that tells whether a person is an old or a new "wineskin."

One venue to test this theory is the skills upgrading seminars conducted by many companies nowadays. Pay attention to people participating in the open forum—their questions and arguments. You'll see gray-haired people easily grasping new ideas introduced by speakers; on the other hand you'll also find people barely out of college who are so unyielding they reject anything clashing with their thoughts.

At these work-related seminars, it is best to be a "new wineskin"—flexible and accommodating of fresh concepts—in order to benefit much from the knowledge being offered. Being closed to new discoveries and learning makes you an "old wineskin," bursting or breaking from your inability to absorb innovative impressions. And you very well know, mental inflexibility could lead to a kind of mental atrophy, where the muscles of your mind, so to speak, shrink because they no longer throb with life-giving change. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

Let us start working to find solutions!

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM A 25-YEAR-OLD CALL CENter agent for a global bank. The recent deaths at the anniversary of the "Wowowee" show at the Ultra Stadium was a wake-up call for me. I feel thankful I have work especially when I saw the scenes of poor people lining up for days for the opportunity to earn some money.

Let us stop blaming and start working to find solutions to our society's problems. Recently, I was listening to BBC journalists talk about 20,000 children in our prisons mixed with adults under despicable conditions. What is happening? My idealism is starting to erode. I love this country but I am just an ordinary citizen with ordinary means. It looks like our politicians and business leaders have become calloused to the pains of the *masa*. Please tell me what we can do for "anxious people out of work?"

Conscience-stricken Employee

Thank you for your letter. Indeed, we have to move from simply an outpouring of sympathy to begin to do something concrete. Often, we look for national solutions to our problems but we also know how bureaucracy can overwhelm and even suffocate initiatives. What I suggest is, let us look at what you and I can do at our level. You will be surprised at what is possible.

Communion of goods

In the Focolare Movement where I am a member, we have a practice called the communion of goods. This means, anything in your cabinet or house that you do not use belongs to your neighbor in need. What do you have in excess? Clothes, shoes, appliances, books. Let us put them in communion at the service of our neighbor in need.

Do you have a poor relative who cannot afford to go to school? Why not see, together with your family or other relatives, how you can support the person through school? With each working person contributing an amount, the task becomes easier.

A friend of mine sends to school all her helpers at home. Depending on their abilities, they either enroll for college or a vocational school. This means managing their schedules so that the housework gets done. With this method, she already has over a dozen graduates who are now successfully employed or self-employed.

Helping where possible

Can you create an additional job at home or at work? Recently, a friend of mine, while going to mass, sat beside a young man who was silently sobbing. He recently was fired from his work as an office driver because a taxi bumped into his car. In fact, he was been two weeks out of work and did not know where to get the next meal for his family. My friend gave him money to help his family. She also realized there was some risk in taking him in as a driver. Doing some reference checking, she gave him a chance. Now the driver is happily employed. My friend is equally happy because the driver has proven to be dependable.

Do you have time to set up a soup kitchen to feed people for free even just for a day in a week? If you are a member of an organization, the Rotary Club perhaps or the Soroptimist Club, name it, organize and get it done.

What I am suggesting is for us to work to improve the situation not of the nameless poor but of the poor who are in our families or neighborhood. These are situations within our influence and control.

Then, there are those of us who have more. A friend of mine had land in the province. He realized that he can afford to spare a hectare and donate it to Gawad Kalinga. Meeting with his children, they agreed heartily to make the donation. Soon 100 poor people will have their own concrete houses.

Economy of sharing

For our business leaders, how about the challenge of a still another breakthrough concept of Chiara Lubich, the founder of the Focolare Movement? It is an enterprise for the economy of sharing. It is purposively setting up a business that will operate in the market economy, but the destination of profits is not the pockets of the owners. Profits go to the poor and to develop people with a new gospel mentality, believing in an economy of sharing rather than having. Over 800 companies of this type exist in the world today.

Then for our church leaders, can we come up with an organized communion of goods, jobs and talents in every parish and diocese and truly become a Church with a preferential option for the poor? Can we build one heart and one mind towards the goal of truly helping our less fortunate brothers?

For government, everything has been said and suggested by experts. We simply pray that politicians work out plans to truly help the poorest of the poor. Stay optimistic, when you start to help, joy will dwell and swell in your heart. Do not lose your youthful idealism. It is time to roll up our sleeves and do what we can. God bless!

Finally, congratulations to the Focolare Movement that is celebrating its 40 years of service in the Philippines this February! May God continue to grow and bless all your endeavors.

(Ms Puangco is president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. E-mail feedback to advice@ancilla-edc.com.ph *or call tel. nos. 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

'My assigned mentor refuses to see me!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

(Continued from Feb. 19)

HOWEVER, NOT ALL FUNCTIONAL experts are fit to mentor. The way you describe your potential mentor shows that he may be psychologically and spiritually unfit for a mentoring relationship. To be fit as a mentor, an expert must also have the following important qualities:

- Willingness to give or to share their expertise with a talented younger person in a noncompetitive way.
- Loyalty to the organization; this loyalty is expressed in their desire to contribute to the leadership pool to ensure organizational stability and continuity by developing talented young people and preparing them for succession.
- Willingness to expose their protégée to new ideas, perspective and standards, and to the values and norms of the profession.
- Enjoyment and enthusiasm about their field such that they continue to update themselves in their profession.
- Recognition of the potentials of younger talented persons and encouragement of the latter to excellent performance.
- Emotional security i.e., they do not see their protégée's as competitors; are not threatened when their protégées are showing progress and well on the road to excellence, accepting the possibility that the protégées might even become better than their mentors.

Self-assessment

However, let me also call your attention to the possibility that your potential mentor may have negative perceptions of you based on your behavior from your past interactions with him or hearsay from others. This may explain his seeming hostility towards you.

Sometimes, HPPs are impatient to move up, so they behave in ways that "rub some people the wrong way." An HPP may rush people, have an air of superiority, and have a competitive spirit. Potential mentors may also think that their protégées will end up not acknowledging or recognizing their mentors' role in their career success. This can discourage some potential mentors who do not see mentoring as a mission or a calling from God.

There is also the perception that HPPs want to be always on the receiving end of the line, i.e., they "pick on the brain" of the mentor and do not take the initiative to find out what they can also do for their mentors and how they can be of service to them.

Please reflect on your behaviors in past interactions with him and identify the need for possible change on your part.

You can certainly learn the competencies you need for your overall development through your own efforts, such as those you have cited in your e-mail. However, the benefits of having a mentor from the organization is that the latter does not only impart knowledge and skills but also the systems and processes, standards and norms unique to the organization and its business; and share the values unique to the organization's culture and to the profession.

So for the time being, it is a good idea to bide your time and allow the HR director to smoothen the path towards your meeting with your potential mentor. She could get feedback from the finance director about how he perceives you, paving the way towards your increased self-awareness and the resulting behavioral changes that you may want to undertake. Meanwhile, be cordial and respectful to the finance director and do not talk against his back even if you are merely describing his actual behaviors. God bless you!

(Send feedback to carsys@ career-systems.com.ph.*)*

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Plan, organise and arrange work packages prior to maintenance inputs in order to ensure on-time check completion and productivity of resources. Additionally, this would require efficient co-ordination and planning of spares, materials, tools and ground support equipment.

Engineering Repairs Officer (Job Reference No: ERO/SN/3434)
Plan, monitor and review the progress of repair, overhaul and modification of aircraft components in-house or at external repair agencies ensuring the completion of work within the desired time frame and at minimum costs, while providing continuous support to aircraft maintenance requirements.

Maintenance Planning Officer (Job Reference No: PO/SN/3435)
Responsible for planning of aircraft allocation to meet operational schedules, maintenance requirements and in addition, will be required to compile aircraft maintenance work packages.

Stores Supply Officer (Job Reference No: SSO/SN/3436)
While leading a team of stores personnel will be required to provide effective and efficient materials support to the Emirates Maintenance departments, Outstations and third parties airlines, meeting the company requirements and airworthiness standards.

Technical Services Engineer (Job Reference No: TSE/SN/3437)
Work as a specialist within a team providing initial configuration, development and modification input to the Emirates fleet, ensuring high standard of performance and technical despatch reliability. We are looking to fill positions in the following areas: Avionics, IFE, Cabin, Airframe, Structures and Powerplant.

Technical Services Officers (Job reference No: TSO/AE/3421)
Responsible for providing technical support to the Engineers in order to maintain reliability standards for the existing fleet and development or modification input for new aircraft, using new IT tools/digital data.

Passenger Sales Services Agent - Call centre (Job reference No: PS&SA/SN/2634)
Entry level positions available at the Call Centers in Dubai on a full-time and a permanent part-time basis. The selected candidates must have the natural ability to sell Emirates products while meeting the service standards set by the company.

Customer Service Agents - Skywards (Job reference No: CSA/KM/3684)
Handle calls from base level members and general programme inquiries, plus operational functions associated with members account. Telemarketing, to obtain additional sales, and feedback from our customers,.on their total Emirates experience,

Pricing Distribution Coordinator - Revenue Optimisation (Job reference No: PDC/SC/3703)
Create, update and manage Emirates electronic distribution of passenger fares and rules though ATPCO (Airline Tariff Publishing Company) to all travel trade through major GDS/CRS (Worldspan / Galileo / Sabre / Amadeus / SITA / Abacus / Infini / Axes / Sky Travel), including Emirates Online (EOL), and major e-commerce channels worldwide.

Recruitment Professionals (Job reference no: RO/LF/2748)
Independently manage the recruitment process, consult with department managers over their short and longer term staffing needs and deliver tailored recruitment solutions.

Finance Professionals (Job reference no: FC/JB/2066)
Qualified accountants for various posts required with specialisation in the areas of Financial Systems and Procedures, Corporate Treasury, Management Accounts, Revenue Accounts, Financial Reporting and Accounting Controls and Corporate Accounts.

Advertising Professional (Job reference No: AO/VU/2259)
Drive, enthusiasm and a clear delivery focus required with a marketing degree and 3 years experience.

Training Specialist - Group Medical Training (Job reference No: T&DO/LF/2744)
Deliver competency based Occupational Health and First Response Training programmes to a multi-cultural audience within the Emirates Group. The training must be aligned to corporate objectives and comply with International standards and regulations.

Industrial Engineers (Job reference No: SIE/PJ/3589)
The Senior Industrial Engineer will undertake projects in performance improvement, process and organisational design and develop new performance improvement strategies with business managers. He/she will also contribute to e-business developments for core business processes and lead project teams of industrial engineers and staff from client departments.

Security Coordinator - Airport Team (Job reference no: SC/KJ/3019)
Security Coordinator for the Airport Team should have a thorough and technical knowledge of all types of passports, Visas and International Travel Documents needed. Only candidates with a high degree of expertise in detecting questionable Passports and Visas will be considered.

If you have good interpersonal skills, are flexible and highly motivated, we invite you to apply online at our website: **www.emiratesgroupcareers.com**. Also submit your updated CV, copy of school credentials, employment & training certificates, passport copy and 2 passport size photographs to:

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1455 Leon Guinto Sr. Street, Malate, Manila,
E-mail: employment@ipams.com **Website: www.ipams.com**

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- Apply in person: **3rd Flr BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City Mon-Fri, 8am to 6pm**
- Text us at: **Globe** users may text "Eperformax <space> your name <space> 'yes' will accept phone call today and send to 2327. **Smart** and **Talk N' Text** users may text "Eperformax <space> your name <space> 'yes' will accept phone call today and send to 09178902327 (Must use capital "E")

* Must have a college degree. No call center experience required. Qualification is based on test scores and interviews.

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Premiere Development Bank urgently needs the following:

Funds Management Head

Experienced and knowledgeable in Treasury, Forex, Remittance, Clearing and Trust Operations of the Bank. Must be highly analytical, dynamic, and flexible to spearhead the Funds Management Operations of the Bank.

Branch Heads

Must have at least six years branch operations experience in a commercial bank or in a big thrift bank. Must have a portfolio of depositors and borrowers. Aggressive in marketing of bank deposits, loan products and other services. To be assigned within Greater Manila & Laguna Area.

Area Credit Officers/Account Officers

Must have been assigned in the branches and/or at least six years experience in a commercial/ thrift bank. Knowledgeable in consumer loans, skilled in financial analysis, preparation of proposals, marketing/packaging of bank loans and other bank products and services. To be assigned within Greater Manila Area.

Branch Cashiers

Must have at least five years experience in a commercial bank or in a thrift bank. Must be knowledgeable in branch cash operations. Must also be skilled in marketing the products and services of the Bank.

Financial Analyst

Candidate will be assigned to the Credit Department to perform analysis of financial statements and projection of borrowers, and preparation of proposals. Must be a graduate of a business course, preferably with at least one year work experience in a commercial bank or any financial institution. Must be analytical and skilled in oral and written communication.

Information Technology (I.T.) Auditors

Accounting graduate; preferably a CPA, with at least three years experience in systems audit gained from an audit firm or bank and must be highly analytical.

Contact : **Premiere Development Bank**
c/o **Human Resources Management Department**
PDB Main Bldg. Edsa cor. Magallanes Avenue,
Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 853-0390 / 852-3526 to 29
Fax.:851-7150

Email Address : lmbaladjay@premierebank.com.ph
irnebrida@premierebank.com.ph

In Need Of
CUSTOMER RELATION OFFICER
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Pls. look for Ms. SALLY R. ABARCA
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Save the Children Federation, Inc

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Program Coordinator is primarily responsible for effective implementation and management of SC's core programs in his/her respective area of assignment. He/she ensures that goals and objectives of Save the Children as stipulated in the Country Result Framework and translated in an Area Development Plan are being met with high quality and with strong partnership among its stakeholders.

Key responsibilities:

The Program Coordinator shall (a) lead in the development of area program plan and its implementation; (b) ensure program integration at all levels in the assigned impact area; (c) lead in recruiting, organizing, training and sustaining pool of community volunteers; (d) provide community support to donor servicing/sponsorship; (e) establish strategic networking and other linkages; and perform other administrative functions (i.e. report writing, filing, etc.)

Requirements:

The position requires strong background in community mobilization, capacity building and partnership/networking. Experience in organizing and strengthening the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) will be highly considered. Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO highly preferred; Bachelor's degree in Social Work or related social science discipline required; Minimum of five years program development experience. Demonstrated training and documentation skills. Ability to work cooperatively in a team. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional experience in an urban program work, a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumés to the HR Coordinator on or before **March 6, 2006** : *By mail* - **CODE: MMPO-PROGRAM COORDINATOR**, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax*: (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail*: ehorca@savechildren.org (please indicate code "**MMPO-PROGRAM COORDINATOR**" in subject line).

Save the Children Federation, Inc

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide, implementing community development projects that help children in need. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for:

PROGRAM TEAM LEADER

Reporting directly to Metro Manila Program Manager, the Program Team Leader is responsible for overall coordination and integration of area level operations in meeting performance targets as specified in annual program operational plan. He/She will supervise Metro Manila Program Coordinators and shall ensure the quality and efficient delivery of programs/projects in support of PhFO's Country Results Framework. This will include developing mechanisms for sustaining these initiatives. He/she shall also be responsible for all vital documentations that will improve stakeholders understanding and appreciation of Metro Manila Urban Program.

Key responsibilities:

The Program Team Leader shall (a) supervise Program Coordinators in setting clear targets and in overseeing their day to day work (b) maintain close working relationships with technical coordinators and ensure teamwork and support in delivering sub sector initiatives; (c) recommend and direct training for continuing education/ skills enhancement of Program Coordinators in upholding high quality and professional Save the Children staff ; (d) assist the Program Manager in institutionalizing and maintaining an effective and efficient Monitoring and Evaluation System (e) document key program experiences as well as produce periodic accomplishment reports such as quarterly, midyear and annual reports.

Requirements:

The position requires strong leadership and program integration skills; Previous work experience in a similar position in an international NGO highly preferred; Bachelor's degree in Social Work or related social science discipline required; Minimum of five years program development experience. Demonstrated training and documentation skills. Fluency in English required. Computer literacy a must. Professional experience in an urban program work a plus.

Qualified applicants may send their resumes to the HR Coordinator on or before **March 6, 2006** : *By mail* - **CODE: MMPO-PROGRAM TEAM LEADER**, Save the Children Federation, Inc., No.1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila. *By fax*: (632) 853-02-15. *By e-mail*: ehorca@savechildren.org (please indicate code "**MMPO-TEAM LEADER**" in subject line).

KEMIN

Kemin AgriFoods Asia, established in 1988, is the leader in the research, development and manufacturing of livestock feed ingredients and agricultural products throughout Asia Pacific. We invite applicants to apply for the position of

Service Equipment Technician/Engineer

Major Responsibilities
- Maintenance of liquid application system throughout Philippines
- Installation of Applicators and generation of flow diagrams
- Generation of maintenance/repair reports
- Testing of new equipment
- Sales support on market information, applicator and product applications.

Qualifications & Experience
- Minimum 1 year of work experience in animal feed production process.
- Certificate in Either Electrical & Electronics OR industrial automation.
- Sound knowledge of SCADA program, PLC programs, animal feed production process control system and liquid addition systems preferred.
- Strong Microsoft program understanding – PowerPoint, Excel, Word and Visio/ Autocad engineering software
- Ability to organize, prioritise, analyze and solve problems.
- Good customer service skill.

Working Conditions: Based in Philippines. Normal office hour work but may require flexibility depending on business needs. Travel domestically most of the time (up to 80% of the time). Travel overseas as and when required.

Qualified candidates are invited to write in with detailed resumé to :
HR Department
Kemin Industries (Asia) Pte Limited
12 Senoko Drive
Singapore 758200
Email: hr.singapore@kemin.com
(only shortlisted candidates will be notified)

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- Willing to take proficiency exam
- Willing to undergo intensive training
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AUTO ELECTRICIAN

- Male
- 22 to 30 years old
- Not less than 5 years experience as auto electrician or equivalent
- Must be familiar with EFI system of various automotive brand
- Must understand and interpret electronic system diagrams and functions
- With knowledge of Air conditioning system
- Residing within Quezon City or nearby places
- Can do rewiring harness

For interested applicants, please e-mail your resumé with 2x2 picture to:
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ARCH'L DESIGNERS

BS Architecture graduate; CADD and preferably Studio VIZ knowledgeable with at least one year experience; Must be personable. Bring latest work samples.

RECORDS OFFICERS

Coll. graduate; computer literate with at least one year experience.

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BS Mngmt or Business Admin or Criminology graduate; Personable, bet. 24 to 29 years old; with a good command of English and at least two years experience.

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Qualifications:
- Male / Female
- 25 to 35 years old
- 3 years working experience in Italian/European restaurant
- At least 5'5-1/2 height (male) & 5'2 height (female)
- Fluent in English & Filipino

BOOKKEEPER

Qualifications:
- Female
- 23 to 30 years old
- 2 years working experience
- Computer literate
- Knowledge in general accounting

Send resumé with 2x2 photo
@ PO box 9026 MCS Pasong Tamo, Makati City

URGENTLY NEEDED!

ACCOUNTING STAFF

QUALIFICATION:

- MALE or FEMALE, 20 to 25 years old
- With or without experience
- Open for all any 4 years course with accounting background

Apply personally/send your resumé with picture to:

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Market Research Directors / Managers

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Positions based at: Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta & Bangkok

Responsibilities:
Develop new business and manage existing clients.
Lead country research teams to achieve profitability and productivity targets.
Hands on Research Management, Analysis, Presentations and Client Servicing

Qualifications:
Degree in Statistics, Economics, Marketing, Psychological or Communications
Postgraduate degree in Marketing or an MBA is preferred
Must have experience in market research, brand consulting or FMCG marketing
Good understanding of research methodologies and strong analytical skills
Strong people management, business development and client servicing skills

Attractive remuneration package and excellent career prospects.

All applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.
Please e-mail your resumé to: careers2@insightasia.com

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BIG TOP
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

a fully equipped digital production and post-production facility is in need of...

POST PRODUCTION MANAGER

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Serves as Creative Director of the Post-Production Team
- May serve as Lead Editor/Motion Graphics for projects
- Involved in developing the current Post-Production system and work process
- Close coordination with Producers and Production Managers
- Pays particular attention to details and organization
- Tasks responsibilities and tracks progress of team members
- Management of project timetables
- Implements and makes sure deadlines are kept
- Supports and motivates team members
- Comprehends project briefs and is capable of identifying script requirements
- Serves as initial level of quality control

Requirements:
- Adept at Non-linear, Motion Graphics and Graphic Design software
  - At least 2-3 years work experience (free-lance or full-time employed)
  - Has worked on both PC and Mac Platforms
  - Has used Final Cut Pro, After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator
- Familiar with the Production Process
- Leadership skills: Has handled Post-Production teams as Lead Editor/Motion Graphics or as Post-Supervisor/Post-Coordinator
- Has an affinity for music and the arts

Additional Hiring Information:
- Experienced and Technically competent applicants will be considered for Post-Production Manager Position
- Competent applicants who are eager to be more technically proficient will be considered for the Post-Production Coordinator Position

POST-PRODUCTION EDITOR/MOTION GRAPHICS ARTIST

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Member of the Post-Production Team.
- May serve as Offline/Online Editor/Motion Graphics for projects
- Involved in developing the current Post-Production system and work process
- Close coordination with the Post-Production Manager, Producers and Production Managers
- Tasks responsibilities and tracks progress of team members
- Supports team members
- Comprehends project briefs and is capable of understanding scripts and their underlying intent

Requirements:
- Being a teamplayer is key!
- Has developed the skill of storytelling with video
- Has creative insight and knows how to execute creative ideas
- Pays particular attention to details
- Knows how to develop a project timetable and meet deadlines
- Adept at Non-linear, Motion Graphics and Graphic Design software
  - At least 2-3 years work experience (free-lance or full-time)
  - Has worked on both PC and Mac Platforms
  - Has used Adobe Premiere, Avid, Final Cut Pro, After Effects, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator
- Familiar with the Production Process
- Has an affinity for music and the arts

CORPORATE SERVICES OFFICER

Duties and Responsibilities:
- Manage the implementation of the general office procedures within the workplace; supervise the smooth running of the day to day administrative operations and systems of the company – Housekeeping & Maintenance, Security, Transportation & Interoffice Liaison and Office Management
- Involved in the development and implementation of the various Corporate Services Programs of the Company under the different Units within the Corporate Services Department.
- Supervise the security, safety, cleanliness, availability and operability of the equipment, tools, and facilities of the company.
- Assists the Production Department in handling office requirements, tasks and logistics
- Oversee and update the general activity calendar of the company
- Prepare standard office communication

Requirements:
- Graduate of a four-year course in Management, Business Administration, and Office Management
- Two years experience in Office Management and Administration, at least one year experience in supervisory capacity
- Computer Literate: Office Applications (MS Word, MS Excel)
- Experience in staff supervision and HR/Personnel Administration
- Has adequate leadership and administrative skills, organized and systematic, friendly and approachable.
- Experience in Production and Post Production outfit an additional advantage

If you're interested in hopping on board the Big Top team, do reach us at: 672-1694, 671-2528 (9 AM – 6 PM) or +63917-7562203 look for Chris, or send resume to joinbigtop@praxi-inc.com

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- Not more than 55 years old

CHIEF ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 6,038 per month
- Not more than 55 years old

CHIEF OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 4,245 per month
- Not more than 48 years old

1st ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 4,245 per month
- Not more than 48 years old

SECOND OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 2,696 per month
- Not more than 42 years old

2nd ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 2,696 per month
- Not more than 42 years old

THIRD OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 2,336 per month
- Not more than 40 years old

3rd ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 2,336 per month
- Not more than 40 years old

ELECTRICIAN
(Salary - US$ 2,696 per month)

PUMPMAN
(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

FITTER
(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

NOTE: FOR PETTY OFFICERS POSITION
- Not more than 40 years old
- At least 5 years Tanker Experience
- With minimum of 1 year Experience on the Position applied

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- Proven track record in sales and management of sales team
- Experience in execution of marketing programs and meeting sales targets
- College graduate, preferably in engineering, marketing, other social sciences
- Good business sense, hardworking and pleasant personality
- Willing to travel and stay in area of assignment

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Male or female, should not be more than 30 years old
- Experienced or predisposed to selling industrial products; new college graduates are welcome
- College graduate, preferably in engineering or marketing
- Can work effectively with minimum supervision, hardworking
- Good business sense and pleasant personality
- Willing to stay and travel in area of responsibility

SERVICE TECHNICIANS
- Male, should not be more than 30 years old
- Preferably with experience in repair, operation, or maintenance of mechanical and electrical equipment
- Good aptitude and possess analytical trouble shooting capability for technical problems
- Preferably graduate of electrical or mechanical engineering; graduates of technical vocational courses will be considered
- Willing to travel in various locations nationwide

Please submit applications to email address recruit@easycall.com.ph or send hard copy to Box No. QC 2006 – 81, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 891 G/F St. Anthony's Bldg., Corner Oxford Street, Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City

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- Serve as a member of multiple client engagement teams.
- Identify issues and propose strategies related to the procedures executed.
- Maintain and develop positive, productive, and professional relationships with clients.
- Use current technology and tools to enhance the effectiveness of services provided.

Requirements
- A bachelor's degree in business, finance, or accounting with demonstrated aptitude in quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Ability to prepare or review MS Excel-based financial models
- Strong analytical and interpersonal skills
- Effective written and verbal communication skills
- A dedication to teamwork
- A strong work initiative and the ability to adapt to new challenges and ideas

Send your curriculum vitaé and cover letter to:

P.O. Box 1408
Makati Central Post Office

Kindly indicate on the envelope REFERENCE NO.: FTA-2006

CCF PHILIPPINES

An International NGO Working for the Well-Being of Children

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is an international non-profit, non political and non-sectarian child development agency that operates in over 30 countries. It has been working in the Philippines for over thirty years now implementing programs in the areas of basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, micro-enterprise development and emergency programs. In partnership with 49 community-based organizations, CCF Philippines assists more than 216,000 children and their families.

It is currently seeking a development professional to take on the role of a **Communications Specialist**. The overall responsibility is to lead the operationalization of the Country Office's strategic communications plan.

The successful candidate will be part of the country office's technical support team, combining both strategic & hands-on skills to build on CCF's strong track record and commitment to addressing child poverty in the Philippines

The successful candidate must have the following qualifications:
- University Degree in relevant course
  At least three to five years experience as a development professional with strong exposure/involvement in communications work
- Demonstrated high level of interpersonal and cross-cultural skills
- Can work with minimal supervision and perform effectively under pressure
  Excellent oral and written communication skills
  A good grasp of children's issues at national and global levels a distinct advantage

An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated according to qualifications & experience.

Interest applicants may send their application letter addressing the position criteria outlined here together with detailed Curriculum Vitaé with 3 references & contact details to **ccftpo@ccfphilippines.org.ph** not later than March 10, 2006. Applications can also be posted to CCF Philippines, 8th Floor Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Due to the volume of applications we receive, we shall only contact shortlisted applicants.

A LEADING PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCY IN MAKATI

urgently needs the following to work for its top PR accounts.

PR ACCOUNT MANAGERS
- Articulate, personable, and with at least 3 years experience in either corporate communication, marketing, public relations or journalism
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WRITERS
- We will consider new graduates, and young or mature individuals who are creative, hardworking and capable of writing about a wide range of topics.

Please send your comprehensive resumé, with recent photo and samples of writing/published materials by **March 6** to:

P.O. Box 1294, MCPO, 1252 Makati City

H&M Group of Companies

The H&M group would like to invite dynamic and highly-motivated individuals to consider the various openings in our management team.
- **Sales and Marketing Officer-** *experienced in all aspects of Sales and Marketing, can lead a young and dynamic team in meeting sales and performance targets, preferably with exposure in the IT industry or other service-related business*
- **Technical Manager-** *experienced in Technical Support function with IT or computer-related business, can lead design and implement performance measures for efficient delivery of service, has good project management skills*
- **Account Manager-** *willing to face difficult customers, has good communication and interpersonal skills, able to multi-task*
- **Programmer-** *knowledgeable and with hands-on experience in one or more of the following programming languages: Visual Basic, Crystal Report, SQL Server/ DB, exposure in web applications is a plus, must have good time-management*
- **Purchasing Officer-** *experienced in supplier accreditation and negotiation, can do materials forecasting, has good interpersonal skills*
- **Sales Designer-** *must be an Architect or Interior Designer, creative, proficient in AutoCADD v. 2000*
- **HR Assistant-** *willing to be trained in all aspects of HR, has good communication and interpersonal skills, able to multi-task*

- Interested applicants may email their resumes to hrd@bcssll.com or call 448-5128 to 34, loc. 21 and 29, for further questions.
- All applications must include complete contact information and desired position. Qualified candidates will be notified thru phone or email.
- All successfully hired applicants can expect to work in a fast-paced and highly competitive industry. Special skills trainings are provided.

A well-established German Manufacturing Company for high quality **European Men's Trousers** located in Bataan, Mariveles, **URGENTLY** requires:

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

Qualifications:
- College Graduate with good standard of written and spoken English
- At least 5 years experience in Garment Manufacturing especially High Quality Trousers
- Knowledge in production planning and quality control
- Good computer skills
- Highly motivated and self-managed individual
- Mature, responsible and able to work under pressure

Interested parties please send full resumé with expected salary by email to:
ec_ccmc@ccmc.bayandsl.ph or
thru Fax +63 47 9354049 for an interview.

SAN BENILDO INTEGRATED SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.
Marcos & Sumulong Highway, Rizal
is in need of the following:

Faculty
1. Grade School & High School Teachers preferably LET passers
2. Licensed Librarian

Staff
1. Personnel Office Clerk
2. Technician/Risographer
3. Business Office Clerk (Accounting Graduate)
4. Property Custodian

Applicants should bring the following:
- Letter of application & resumé with picture.
- Transcript of records & recommendation letter from previous employer.
- Photocopy of Birth & Baptismal Certificate/NBI Clearance

For inquiries call 6811718 / 6463395 –
Grade School (Ms. Yvette Sobrepeña)
6608105/10 – High School (Ms. Vilma Fuellas)

JOB Market

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ZARA

With more than 850 stores in the most commercial streets in 60 countries, Zara sets the latest fashion trends for millions of people. We count on professionals like you to create and transmit the excitement that this extraordinary company possesses.

To cope with our major expansion, we are now recruiting for the new stores of our franchisee in the Philippines:

Retail Manager

Section Manager

Assistant Section Manager

We are looking for highly committed young professionals who adore fashion and thrive on the challenge of working in a high-energy business, who are willing to share our vision of creating a new concept in customer service.

They will be responsible for organising and managing stores and leading highly motivated teams. This requires a proven management experience at the point of sale with a leadership style that inspires motivation and enthusiasm. Our successful candidates will have excellent communications skills, fluent in English and have passion for customer service and products.

Human Resources Manager

Candidates should be between 26-35 years old and they will be responsible for staff recruitments, training & personal development, planning & controlling staffs working schedules. They will have to be hands-on person, will be required to spend 90% of his/her time in the stores and be in close contact with all the staffs. Previous experience in HR and knowledge of labor law will be big advantage. English proficiency is required.

CV and covering letter should be sent, within 2 weeks from today, to:
STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
HR Department
Ground Floor Accelerando Building
395 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200 Philippines
Tel.: (02) 890 84 24. Fax: (02) 899 68 58

Also, we are now recruiting for the new stores of our franchisee in the Philippines:

Sales Assistants

Cashiers

We are looking for candidates who have excellent communication skills, a positive attitude and love customer service.

CV and covering letter should be sent, within 2 weeks from today, to:

STORES SPECIALISTS, INC.
Personnel Department
Ground Floor Accelerando Building
395 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200 Philippines
Tel.: (02) 890 84 24. Fax: (02) 899 68 58

www.zara.com

TERADYNE is a leading supplier of Automatic Test Equipment and interconnection systems. The company's products deliver competitive advantage to the world's leading semiconductor, electronics, automotive and network systems companies. Its Repair Center facility in Cebu has been in operation since 1996 and added a Customer Care Center that recently opened in 2003. With the unprecedented growth of the Company, we are looking for individuals who are creative, aggressive, and mature to fill up the following positions.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

(to be based in Cebu Office)

Duties / Responsibilities / Essential Function:

This role will be responsible for managing and maintaining the facilities operation including environmental and safety aspect in Cebu, Alabang and any other Teradyne Philippines offices. The responsibilities will include developing and administering the facilities maintenance as well as environmental & safety policies and programs. Other responsibilities also include developing and maintaining a close liaison with key internal groups including corporate E&S, Facilities and EIT etc. to ensure that facilities maintenance programs and E&S policies and procedures are in place and within company guidelines and local business needs. The role is likewise expected to coordinate, supervise and manage all improvement works and renovations projects in Cebu and other locations as well as supervise the facilities team in Cebu or in-house contracted electrician, cleaners and security guards and administrative works for telecommunication, IT and security system and co-ordinate real estate/ apartment leases/service contracts.

Education/Training/Skills/Experience Required:

- Bachelor's Degree in Facilities Management /Mechanical and Electrical/Civil Engineering/Architectural with minimum 5 years of responsible facilities experience or supervisory role in a multinational environment.
- Requires a well-rounded knowledge of industrial facilities, government compliance requirements as well as E&S policies and IT knowledge.
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills in English language sufficient to deal with all levels of position in the organization.
- Preferably with previous budgetary oversight experience. Those who also possess fire fighting and first aid certificate have an advantage.
- Must be able to use Lotus Notes, Microsoft Office and other related PC programs effectively.

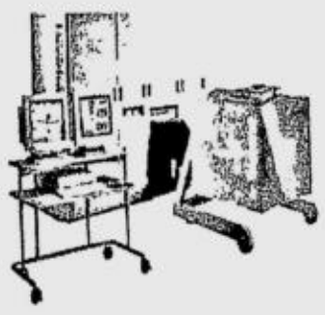
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE – Mandarin Support

(to be based in Cebu Office)

Duties / Responsibilities / Essential Function:

The Customer Service Representative shall be responsible in synthesizing both internal and external feedback and turns it into actionable items, leads the corrective actions and supports teams and projects that will deliver solutions and issues for the customers. Works with the Field organization and other appropriate groups to ensure customer satisfaction on key accounts. The candidate will be provided with language premium allowance.

Business Hours: Monday - Sunday 24X7
Work Hours: 5 scheduled days which may include weekends, holidays and on-call



Education / Training / Skills / Experience required:

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 1-2 years of customer service work experience will be an advantage
- Excellent phone, verbal and written communication skills
- Able to speak & understand in Mandarin language
- Knowledgeable with Microsoft Office package (PowerPoint, Excel, Word)
- Willing to work on shifting schedule, including night shift

THESE ARE URGENT REQUIREMENTS. Qualified and interested applicants, please submit your application letter and comprehensive resumé on-line to:
http://www.teradyne.com/hr/jobs.html

The successful candidates will receive a competitive compensation and benefits package within the Call Center, Semiconductor and Electronics industry and has the opportunity to work in a technology-driven company like **TERADYNE**.

Associate Integrity Analyst

Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for assisting the Integrity Division (OAGI) staff in reviewing complaints and allegations of fraud and corruption through audit and investigative activities, including researching and analyzing ADB and other records and information to gather background information and assess allegations; conducting research and audit steps to support project procurement-related activities; developing and maintaining electronic and other working papers and records; and other activities to support OAGI. Specific responsibilities include:

Investigation/Audit Strategy, Approach and Techniques
- ensuring effective conduct of audits and investigations by executing appropriate audit and investigation procedures and inspection techniques to resolve complaints and allegations of fraud, corruption and other wrongdoing, and monitoring and reporting on status of these complaints.
- assisting in planning and conducting review or audit of operational functions to assess adequacy of controls by formulating and adopting appropriate strategies and approaches, and by executing a flexible audit program including risk analyses.

Investigation/Audit Execution
- carrying out procedures to assess potential areas of fraud or corruption and assisting in formulation of guidelines for adoption of consistent investigation procedures covering ADB projects and staff.
- assessing compliance with existing policies, systems and procedures, including contracts and agreements and identifying deficiencies and weaknesses in internal controls.

Investigation/Audit Report Preparation
- contributing to the preparation of comprehensive investigation and audit reports containing findings and observations that describe the type and nature of deviations, deficiencies and inappropriate or fraudulent practices and activities.
- formulating recommendations and measures for administrative and procedural improvements.
- discussing findings and recommendations in accordance with appropriate investigation guidelines.
- monitoring status of recommendations and conducting periodic follow-up regarding their status.

Others
- participating in investigative and other OAGI missions and may prepare or contribute to back-to-office reports.
- participating in or undertaking research activities under supervision of designated OAGI staff as a basis to advise other Departments/Office in the deterrence and detection of fraud, and limiting their occurrence through the establishment of effective controls.
- performing other duties as may be assigned by the Auditor General, Director, OAGI, or other OAGI staff to facilitate the disposition and resolution of allegations of fraud, abuse and other inappropriate practices.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to the Director, OAGI.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include
- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level.
- a Bachelor's degree in one of the following areas: Information Sciences, Business Administration, Accounting and Law.
- 5 years combined relevant experience in audit and investigative work involving fraud or corruption, demonstrating a progression to greater job responsibilities, and preferably including experience in multiple countries and/or with international organizations.
- thorough knowledge of the principles of internal control and fraud detection, investigation and reporting, and interpersonal skills necessary to interact successfully with other parties in the process of evaluating compliance with internal control and security requirements.
- strong analytical and organizational skills; ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written and/or oral presentation, taking into account the need to express the overall concepts clearly and explain the sometimes complex interrelationships among the findings and recommendations; ability to determine which details are appropriate to include, and which should be omitted, based on the intended purpose, scope and audience of the presentation; ability to present the resulting information in clear, concise, grammatical English, either orally or in writing as the situation may require.
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- ability to effectively meet and interact with auditees organization-wide and work as a team member; ability to obtain the cooperation and assistance of auditees, convey findings unemotionally and without personal criticism; and ability to draft recommendations that will address the deficiencies, taking account of related auditee operations.
- comprehensive knowledge and understanding of multilateral organizations' requirements, operations, policies, particularly the Anticorruption policy, systems, records, and procedures embodied in the multilateral organizations' charter, board and policy papers, fund regulations, operations manual, project administration instructions, administrative orders and circulars particularly those relating to code of conduct and disciplinary procedures, and other relevant documents.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-034(4)-OAGI** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/ apform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **10 March 2006**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

We currently have an outstanding opportunity available for an Experienced Engineer to join a rapidly growing professional services firm **RAPID MOVEMENT (RM)** in Brisbane, Australia.

To apply, you will need 4-5 years of experience and to have excelled in your chosen engineering profession. While preference will be given to mechanical, civil and project engineers with experience in the mining and energy industries, other types of engineers may still apply.

To work as an Engineer in Australia you will need to gain accreditation from the Australian Institute of Engineers. More details on this accreditation can be found in the Overseas Qualification Assessment Kit located at: www.ieaust.org.au/find/osqa.html.

As well as being technically proficient, all applicants need to satisfy the following requirements:

- Accreditation – Applications will only be accepted from individuals who have either gained Australian Institute of Engineers accreditation or who have started going through the accreditation process.
- English skills - Applicants are required to have achieved a minimum of Band 6 in each of the four modules of speaking, listening, reading and writing in either the general or academic modules of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (www.ielts.org).
- Excellent presentation and report writing skills.
- High level computer skills.

We will be offering a 2-5 year contract with a base salary of Php1,500,000.00 plus Php150,000.00 in superannuation to the successful candidate for an April to May start. A further bonus is negotiable and will be based on skills and experience. Other benefits include:

- Assistance for flights and accommodation.
- Pre-arranged Visa approval and management.

You also may be eligible to become an Australian citizen at the end of your contract.

Please direct all applications & enquires to:
careers@rapidmovement.com.au

WANTED
(For Export Co.)
1) **ACCOUNTING STAFF**
* BS Accountancy Graduate
* 25-35 F
* 5 yrs experience, competent and hardworking
2) **SEWERS** – highly skilled
834 Felipe Pike St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City
Tel No 671-1649

URGENT HIRING
SAFETY OFFICER/ENGINEER
- Male, 25 years old above. Flexible to work @ long hours
- College graduate preferably Engineering Course
- With Certificate in Occupational, Hazard and Environmental training duly accepted by DOLE
- Experience in Semiconductor Plant is a must

PLEASE submit your resume w/ latest pix at jscsoph@yahoo.com
Joosung Electrical Construction Corporation
Stall 222, Bldg 2, FTI Complex, Taguig City.
Tel 837-7176

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www.standardimmigration.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING
TWO (2) CIVIL ENGINEER
- with license at least 10 years of experience

Qualified applicants can bring their resumé at Rm. 202 Sta. Lucia Bldg., San Antonio Valley I, Parañaque City or call at 829-8006; 820-4326

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or its equivalent; Technical background is an advantage

INBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS
At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above; Able to effectively communicate in English; Must have sales experience; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER
Two(2)-Three(3) years in a call center; Should have excellent presentation skills; Detail-oriented; Team player

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER
ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience; One (1) year of customer service experience; Has strong background in computer applications; Outgoing/ Friendly/ Mature; Active listening skills; Strong motivational skills

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
At least one (1) year in customer service in a call center; Technical experience is a plus; Outgoing friendly and mature; Strong motivational skills

DATABASE PROGRAMMER
One-year related work experience; Graduates of B.S./M.S. Comp Sci; Knowledgeable: My SQL, Linux, Apache languages, Visual Basic, Crystal Reports, Scripting languages, Microsoft SQL Server; Experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISORS
One (1) year supervisory experience in a call center environment; Experience as a quality assurance supervisor/analyst is an advantage

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS
Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; Must demonstrate honesty, reliability & ability to follow Corporate QA directives; Strong attention to details

MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS
Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; One (1) year call center experience; Ability to work under pressure, Meet deadlines & be accountable for the performance of others; Demonstrated leadership skills, dependability & initiative; Flexible schedule

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT DATA ANALYST
At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; Excellent skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project and Outlook; Internet savvy; Excellent organizational and communication skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Excellent time management skills; Strong attention to detail

PROCESSING SPECIALIST
Able to work in a fast-paced environment; Proficient in Microsoft Excel; Excellent time management skills; Ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; Strong attention to detail

All positions require excellent verbal & written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office & Internet Explorer

Interested applicants may bring the following requirements: Updated resume / 2 pcs of 2x2 picture / 6 pcs of 1x1 picture

NOW HIRING IN BACOLOD / RECRUITMENT CENTER 2/F San Carlos room, Bacolod Convention Plaza Magsaysay Avenue, Bacolod City 6100, Negros Occidental

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PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
is in need of a:

MARINE SUPERINTENDENT / ADVISER

APPLICANTS MUST POSSESS THE FOLLOWING:

- A masters ticket (Class I) with at least 5 years' experience on ocean going tankers, LPG, LNG or Chemical Ships; minimum 2 years in a senior officer rank
- Related experience, certification and/or graduate studies in conduct of ships and terminal inspection, management of shipping companies, training and attendance in marine casualty and special operation such as STS, lightering, even towage and salvage will be an advantage.
- IT knowledge of windows-based computer programs.
- Willingness to travel and work extra hours if required
- Fluency in the English language (written & verbal communication)

Interested parties may send their application letter & resumé to:

The A&R Operations Coordinator
156 Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City

* Applications are also accepted online thru: www.shell.com.ph/careers

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McKinsey & Company is a global consulting firm advising the top management of leading companies and institutions on issues of strategy, organization, operations, and technology. We have more than 80 offices worldwide including 17 locations in Asia: Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New Delhi, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, and Tokyo.

In a Manila-based position, the Recruiting Data Assistant will support school and office recruiting teams worldwide to manage, track, and analyze the data involved with recruiting consultants into the region from various local and overseas sources.

Recruiting Data Assistant

Your Role:
- Handle selected incoming applications – input tracking data and perform basic candidate screening and communications
- Update teams regularly on key recruiting metrics and progress against preset targets
- Manage input/upload of interview-related data and materials to global recruiting database
- Extract standard reports from the recruiting databases and work with teams to create new, customized reports where necessary
- Give ad hoc support on data, technology, and analysis-related recruiting initiatives as needed

Your Profile:
- Basic technical skills such as familiarity with MS Office, Lotus Notes and online databases
- Outstanding organizational and administrative skills
- Ability to carry out multiple tasks independently and willing to take initiative
- Strong written and verbal skills with high attention to detail
- Professional, approachable and confident personality able to work with all levels of staff internally and externally
- Able to handle and resolve competing demands in a timely and professional manner
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, while still contributing to a friendly and fun team atmosphere

Your Qualifications:
- Undergraduate degree from one of the leading universities required
- 1-3 years previous work experience in a multinational company or professional services firm, preferably with human resources or IT department

We offer a highly competitive compensation and benefits package in line with experience and qualifications.

To apply: Please forward a detailed resume with current and expected salary in strict confidence by e-mail to **recruitingSSC@mckinsey.com** on or before March 5, 2006 with the subject "Recruiting Data Assistant". Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

McKinsey&Company

McKinsey & Company is a global consulting firm advising the top management of leading companies and institutions on issues of strategy, organization, operations, and technology. We have more than 80 offices worldwide including 17 locations in Asia: Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New Delhi, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, and Tokyo.

In a Manila-based position, this person will lead a small team of data assistants in supporting school and office recruiting teams worldwide to manage, track, and analyze the data involved with recruiting consultants. In addition, this role will support the manager of the Manila shared service center on a variety of human resources tasks and initiatives.

Recruiting Data and Human Resources Administrator

Recruiting data responsibilities:
- Manage small team of data assistants to handle input/upload of interview-related data and materials to global recruiting database
- Help team directly with data entry and related tasks during critical times of year (e.g., fall recruiting season)
- Process requests by recruiting teams for assistant time and staff on daily basis based on most efficient resource allocation
- Track performance metrics and client feedback for data team on regular basis and report to regional leadership

Human resources responsibilities:
- Manage the resource planning (including recruiting) of the shared services center
- Help design and implement structure for performance appraisal and recognition
- Give support to the shared services leadership on organization building & development, and other initiatives

Your Profile:
- Basic technical skills such as familiarity with MS Office, Lotus Notes and online databases
- Outstanding organizational and administrative skills
- Experience managing and motivating small teams and working with remote team members in other locations
- Strong written and verbal skills with high attention to detail
- Professional, approachable and confident personality able to work with all levels of staff internally and externally
- Able to independently handle and resolve competing demands in a timely and professional manner
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, while still contributing to a friendly and fun team atmosphere

Your Qualifications:
- Undergraduate degree from one of the leading universities required; graduate degree a plus
- 4-6 years previous work experience in a multinational company or professional services firm, preferably with human resources or IT department

We offer a highly competitive compensation and benefits package in line with experience and qualifications.
To apply: Please forward a detailed resume with current and expected salary in strict confidence by e-mail to **recruitingSSC@mckinsey.com** on or before March 5, 2006, with the subject "Recruiting Data and HR Administrator". Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

McKinsey&Company

Vacancy Announcement for Prosthetist/Orthotist

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Outpatient Clinic is in need of an **Administrative Support Assistant (Orthotics/Prosthetics) (Filipino Citizen)** who will issue orthotic/prosthetic devices and other appliances. The incumbent will also be responsible in maintaining the Prosthetics Inventory and coordinate and authorize fee-based services. He/She should be available to report for work 30 hours a week, Mondays to Fridays.

Must have a degree in Physical Therapy, preferably board certified, with a minimum of three years experience in Prosthetics/Orthotics. Excellent command of oral and written English and knowledge of basic computer operation are required.

If interested and qualified, **mail** your recent curriculum vitaé, diploma and/or transcript of records and other credentials (no photo required) to:

Human Resources Management
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
1131 Roxas Blvd., Manila 0930

Applications must be received not later than March 5, 2006. On the lower right corner of the envelope, indicate: "Prosthetics/Orthotics." We regret we cannot entertain walk-in applicants and will only contact those applicants for interview.

Time to take your rightful place in the corporate world!

JOB JOBZ EMPLOYMENT EXPO

MARCH 6 -7, 2006 GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER

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Direct hire. Please send your resumé with photo via Fax No. 3621583 or come to: 60 Panalituran St., Del Monte Ave., Q.C. (afternoon only) Tel No. 362-1455 or 410-8198

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Need a hand launching your call center career?

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- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support)
  - HR back office support (Speaks Thai)
  - HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Digital Imaging Company (Voice Support)
  - HR back office support (Speaks German or French)

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Managers
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Deputy General Manager - Quality
- QA Manager – Process Improvement
- Assistant Manager - HR
- Deputy QA Managers
- Strategic QA Specialists
- Financial Analyst
- Deputy Manager - Events
- Deputy Manager - Communications
- Deputy Manager - Branding
- Financial Planning Manager
- Accounts Payable & Tax Accountant
- Sr. Recruitment Associate - Sourcing
- Sr. Recruitment Associate - Support and Leadership

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

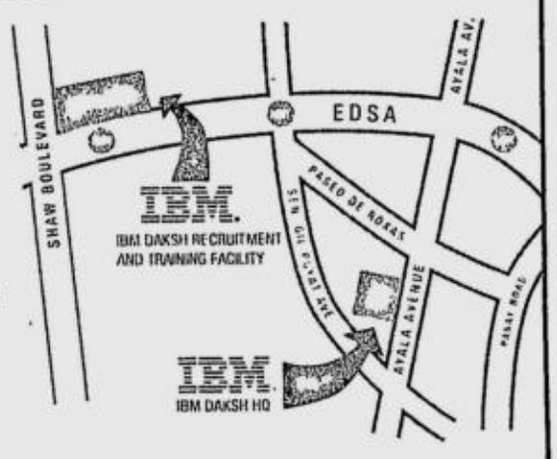
Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

Call our Recruitment Hotline 840-6020

or email your resume to applications@daksh.com.ph

IBM DAKSH HEADQUARTERS
30/F PBCom Tower,
Ayala Avenue Makati

IBM DAKSH RECRUITMENT CENTER
3/F Edsa Central Pavilion
Edsa cor. Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City



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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TWO (2) COPY EDITORS

for the News and Sports sections of Cebu Daily News

- Has 5 years experience in editing or news reporting
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- Has above-average mastery of written English
- Can adapt to special editorial software
- Resides in Cebu or is willing to relocate to Cebu
- Demonstrates high initiative and an analytical mind
- Performs well under the pressure of daily deadlines

ONE (1) GRAPHIC ARTIST

For Cebu Daily News

- Good visual design skills
- Ability to design newspaper pages using computer software (Adobe Photoshop, Pagemaker, InDesign)
- A spirit for innovation
- Strong creative drive
- Ability to execute layouts on short deadlines
- Willingness to learn new computer programs
- A portfolio of past work
- Being a wide reader is a definite advantage.
- Resides in Cebu or is willing to relocate to Cebu

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Are a resident of Metro Manila
- Have experience in sales or advertising, preferably in a publications industry
- Can work independently and can work with a team
- Like to do field work and enjoy meeting people
- Value customer relations
- Are persistent and goal-oriented
- Computer Literate
- Can work under pressure
- Have excellent communication skills

Submit or email an application letter, resumé and references to:

LOUIE PRIETO PRESS BLDG.
Mascardo St. Pasong Tamo Makati City
aoasan@fep.ph/allumin@fep.ph

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
C/O Cebu Daily News Building
Cor. Kaoshiung and Osmeña Ave.
North Reclamation Area Cebu City
fcanoy@fep.ph

GLORY

GLORY (PHILIPPINES), INC.

One of the largest Japanese Manufacturers of Banking Equipment is in need of

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

- Female, 25-40 years old
- CPA
- At least 2 years experience in Accounting procedures
- Must possess excellent English communication skills
- Computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, etc.)
- Highly motivated, aggressive and hardworking

OFFICE CLERK

- Female, 23-30 years old
- College Graduate
- Must possess excellent written and oral communication skills in Japanese
  - Over Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level 2
- Computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access, etc.)
- Highly motivated, aggressive and hardworking

PURCHASER SUPERVISOR

- Male / Female, not over 40 years old
- College graduate
- At least 3 years experience in procurement of industrial parts
- Can work with minimum supervision and under pressure
- Good negotiation, highly motivated, aggressive and hardworking

Applicants may submit their Resumé and other requirements to

Glory (Philippines), Inc.
Lots 1 & 3, Block 19, Phase 3
Cavite Economic Zone
Rosario, Cavite
Tel. Nos. (046) 437-0501 to 0503
Fax No. (046) 437-0506
E-mail Address: n.vidal@glory.com.ph

ATTENTION: PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Centers for Long Term Care, a fast growing, dynamic group of private health facilities in the United States is in need of Physical Therapists.

Qualifications:

- Physical Therapy graduate
- Philippine Board exam passer
- At least 2 years experience in private practice or in a medical institution
- Physically Fit
- Excellent English communication skills
- TOEFL, TWE, TSE passers have an advantage

Submit the ff. documents:

- Resume with 2x2 picture
- Copy of Official Transcript of Records
- Copy of PRC registration
- Copy of TOEFL, TWE, TSE scores, if available
- Copy of FCCPT evaluation, if available

For manpower pooling only.
No fees to be collected.

Arrowhead Manpower Resources, Inc
POEA-002-LB-011906-UL

Unit 1, 2/F, Topy 1 Bldg.,
#3 Economia St., Bagong Bayan,
Quezon City 1110
Tel. no. 3955930 / 3955931

MEDIKWELT MARKETING

8165-I Dr. A. Santos Ave., San Dionisio
Sucat Rd., Parañaque City

We are a fast growing company engaged in the distribution of high quality Medical Supplies is in need of the following:

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- College graduate preferably Medical course
- Not more than 28 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Must be hardworking, mature, assertive and highly personable with strong salesmanship skills
- Must possess good oral and written communication skills

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Female at least 21-28 years old
- Graduate of BS Commerce
- With or without work experience
- Computer literate

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with 2" x 2" picture, transcript of records and letter of application addressed to:

The Manager
Medikwelt Marketing
8165-I Dr. A. Santos Ave.,
San Dionisio, Sucat Rd.,
Parañaque City

Registered Nurses & Licensed Physical Therapists Opportunities in Florida, USA

- MUST HAVE PASSING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMS OR IN THE PROCESS
- MUST HAVE EDUCATIONAL EVAL & CREDENTIALING OR APPLIED FOR
- MUST HAVE VISA SCREEN OR APPLIED FOR

WE OFFER:

1. THREE YEARS CONTRACT
2. REIMBURSEMENT OF ALL EXPENSES
3. PREMIUM VISA PROCESSING/AIRFARE
4. FULL BENEFITS (HEALTH & LIFE INSURANCE)
5. VERY COMPETITIVE HOURLY WAGES
6. PAID OVERTIME + BONUSES

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES MUST SEND:

- ✓ RESUME WITH 2 PHOTOS 2X2
- ✓ 3 WORK REFERRENCES (NOTARIZED)
- ✓ TOR & DIPLOMA + PRC (AUTHENTICATED)
- ✓ NOTARIZED COPIES OF TOEFL/TSE/EVAL & VISA SCREEN (IF AVAIL)

PLEASE SEND YOUR INQUIRY TO: jadams24@bellsouth.net

A well established Agribusiness Equipment company has immediate opening for:

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Accounting graduate with initiative
- With 1-2 years work experience, below 30 yrs. old
- Computer literate
- Good opportunity with a very stable company

Please send your Resumé and Transcript of Records to:
M.C.P.O. Box 2258 Makati City 1262

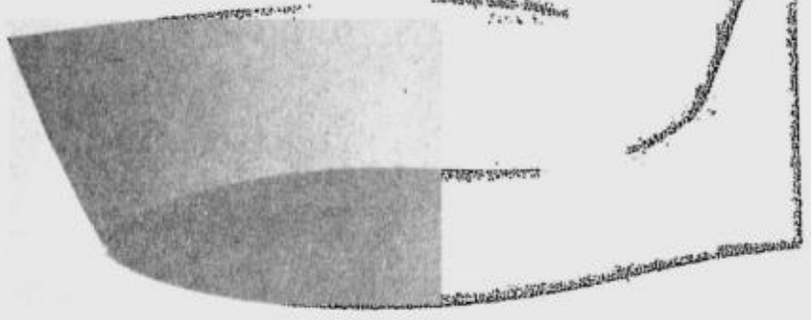
Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.

50 Years

Committed to Caring



Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.

Today

Messages

History is upon us and we can almost see its pages shift from one interesting segment to another.

Johnson & Johnson Philippines turns 50 years this year and by the looks of it, the company is ready to charge into its next 50 years.

Johnson & Johnson is a company that has built a global business based on trust, and the Philippine operating company is no exception. Johnson & Johnson Philippines takes pride in its distinction as a trusted consumer healthcare company that truly cares for the Filipino family. Our people, products, systems, practices and aspirations are seamlessly etched to build a company that adheres to the highest level of business ethics, to "doing the right thing" – consistent with the trust our consumers have conferred upon us since we began. Our 50-year history is a testimony that a company's success and longevity happens not in spite of corporate responsibility but because of it.

"Committed to Caring" is more than just the theme of our 50th year anniversary. It captures the true essence of the company's commitment to its various publics. It is naturally and unmistakably the heart of Johnson & Johnson, and is the moral compass that will guide us as we embark on the next 50 years and beyond.

All of us in the company today take great pride in being part of the Johnson & Johnson Philippines team. And yet, all the glory is not ours to claim. We share the honor with all our retired and former Johnson & Johnson co-employees, our trade partners and suppliers, all the mothers and babies, and the doctors, nurses and midwives who have given us their trust all these years.

In behalf of the Johnson & Johnson Philippines community, we thank you for your unceasing support and trust in us.

Grace del Rosario-Castaño

GRACE DEL ROSARIO-CASTAÑO
President and Managing Director
Johnson & Johnson Philippines

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of Johnson & Johnson Philippines, Incorporated as they celebrate another significant event by holding their 50th Anniversary Commemoration with the theme "Committed to Caring".

Your significant contributions in the health care industry have led to the advancement of our people's health status and well-being. I commend your company's continuing improvement through scientific innovations and selfless service by reflecting endurance and trustworthiness and providing quality health care products for our consumers.

May your achievements further enhance your efficiency and productivity as you renew your dedication and commitment for readiness towards a greater future ahead of us.

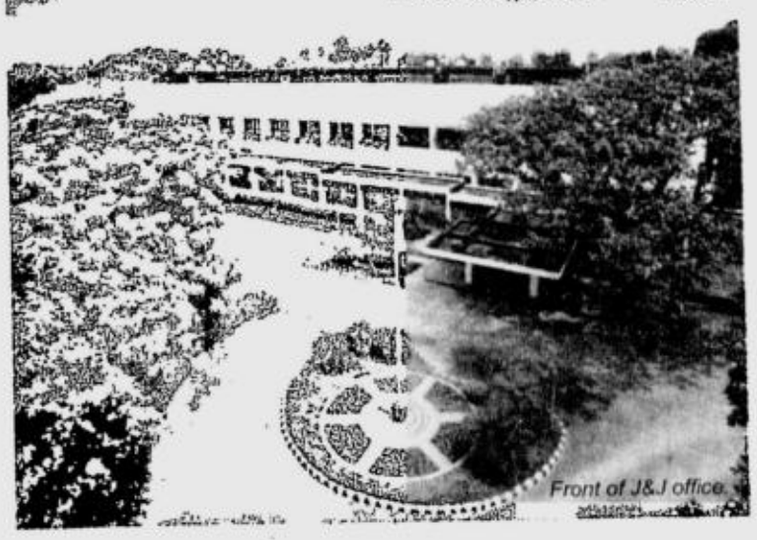
Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

UNICEF wishes to congratulate Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc. for its 50th anniversary! Johnson & Johnson is an admirable company with a deep sense of social responsibility. We take this opportunity to thank Johnson & Johnson for its long-term commitment to help the needy women and children in the Philippines, specifically in the areas of Maternal Health and Early Child Care and Development. We stand united with you on this 50 year journey. Mabuhay!

DR. NICHOLAS K. ALIPUI
UNICEF Representative

"Everybody in the Company continues to be proud to work at Johnson & Johnson®, primarily because of the culture of the Company. It is very caring, very nurturing – it demands of you, but it also *truly* takes care of you."



Front of J&J office

It is quite likely that many Filipinos are not aware of the breadth of the business of Johnson & Johnson®. "Most people just think baby powder when they think of Johnson & Johnson®," acknowledges Grace del Rosario-Castaño, President and Managing Director of the Johnson & Johnson® Philippine affiliate. Johnson's Baby Powder is, after all, probably the most enduring, most widely used and best-loved baby product in the world. "But did you know that we have Janssen, we have Medical? What I think people do not see is that we have anchored our very core on health care."

Three companies, in fact, make up Johnson & Johnson® (Philippines), Inc. and share in the spacious, gleaming complex where once were fields of cogon grass as far as the eye could see: Johnson & Johnson® Consumer, well-known for Johnson's Baby products and other leading products in women's health, children and adult skin and hair care, and oral and wound care markets; Johnson & Johnson® Medical Philippines, which markets medical products, devices, instruments and equipment in specialty areas such as wound closure, endosurgery, interventional cardiology, infection prevention, orthopedics, and self-monitoring devices; and Janssen Pharmaceutical, a member of the Johnson & Johnson® Worldwide Family of Companies specializing in the fields of psychiatry, anaesthesia and analgesia, gastroenterology, parasitology, allergology, and cardiovascular research.

It is, as Lawrence G. Foster puts it in *A Company That Cares*, a "double life" that Johnson & Johnson® has been living for most of its years – as a producer of pharmaceutical and professional products, as well as consumer products that are health related.

Johnson & Johnson® Philippines is heir to this rich heritage and has established a formidable presence in the world of health care. They may compete in the consumer personal products category, but because their foundation is health care, they aspire not merely to sell superior quality products but to enrich lives.

A significant, and unique, aspect of that heritage – and one that the Philippine company lives with deep pride – is the Credo. A one-page declaration of the Company's philosophy articulates its responsibilities – to its customers, employees, the community, and its stockholders – in that order. The spirit of this document governs every aspect of the way they do business across Johnson & Johnson® affiliates around the world. And the prosperity of the Johnson & Johnson® Family of Companies over more than a century is testament to the belief that in abiding by these principles, it would profit the business as well.

"You can be highly ethical *and* profitable, too – it doesn't have to be one or the other," imparted Castaño. "Johnson & Johnson® is a good example, where it is truly well-grounded in terms of ethics and that is the reason why it is delivering good business results."

Numerous surveys and studies bear this out. An opinion poll conducted by public relations firm GolinHarris shows that if consumers believe that a company's ethics and social responsibility are authentic and essential to what it stands for, they will champion the brand – use its products and services, recommend it to others, welcome the company into their community, and have trust for the company and its people.

"It is how we do business. The customer comes first," said Castaño. "Everyone caters to the consumer, but Johnson & Johnson® puts the consumer first." She cites the Tylenol recall in the 1980s after the infamous tampering incidents in the United States as an example. "Our paramount concern is always the consumer."

This kind of character, fortified by the Credo, is something that inspires high regard from its employees as well. "You have that pride," expressed one marketing manager, "that when you say Johnson & Johnson®, it's not just about business, really – it is about relationships, it is about pride in your products, about working with good people. You live, understand, and really take in the Credo. Here, there is such a thing as integrity, as fairness." With the Credo as their constitution, so to speak, the Company nurtures an environment that is caring of its employees. *We are responsible to our employees, the men and women who work with us throughout the world.* "Everybody in the Company continues to be proud to work at Johnson & Johnson®, primarily because of the culture of the Company. It is very caring, very nurturing – it demands of you, but it also *truly* takes care of you," continued the manager.

And that is something that Johnson & Johnson® Philippines is proud of, too – "that our employees are proud to be part of the Company," said Castaño.

At fifty years, Johnson & Johnson® Philippines proves its resilience. Like the Filipino sailors, an allegory Castaño likes to draw, who in their naval exercises with the fleets – invariably more modern – of other countries, always earn the admiration of their colleagues. "Why? Because Filipino sailors, saddled with old ships that break down in the middle of the exercise, manage to repair the ship in the middle of nowhere, with whatever materials are on board, and have it reach its destination. This was something the other sailors, spoon-fed in a way by perfectly running ships, were not accustomed to doing." The passing of each year is a race finished for the Philippine company, and with hard-earned achievements – that include pioneering innovations of particular relevance to the Filipino customer – they can take great pride in, as well.

Front of J&J old office

Half-a-century's history behind it yet it is dynamic and evolving. "We have our business plans, our growth targets," said Castaño. "But, ultimately, these are not really the point. We are setting our own challenges."

"Sometimes, I must admit, there are days that I wake up and say, 'Why are we making it difficult for ourselves?' It isn't really necessary. But this is something that we are proud of: we are setting our own goals. I am proud of the fact that everyone in this Company is trying to stretch themselves, despite the fact that it may not be necessary, or expected of us."

It is this kind of commitment, Castaño feels, that probably will set Johnson & Johnson® Philippines apart from the others, who are satisfied to deliver what is expected of them. "In our case, that is not good enough. We have to outperform ourselves, and not just the competition."

Why? "Because...we want to be better – not only a better company, but better people.

That is Johnson & Johnson® Philippines today."

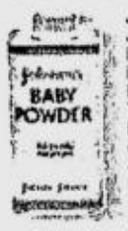
Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.

50 Years

Committed to Caring

50's

1956



Johnson & Johnson® was incorporated in the Philippines. The company initially carried only one brand – Johnson's® Baby Powder. It was first manufactured and distributed by an agent, Shirito, Inc. until the company had enough resources and materials to produce it on their own in 1957.

1959

Began to expand the product line by including Johnson's® Baby Oil, Baby Shampoo, Baby Soap And Cream.

60's

1960

Johnson's® Baby Cologne was introduced into the market. Its launch achieved a level of popularity unmatched in the history of the Johnson & Johnson® Family of Companies.

1962

A joint venture with Metro Drug Corporation and Philippine Medicat Products led to the manufacturing and distribution of Modess® Sanitary Napkins, Band-Aid® Adhesive Bandages, Specialist Plaster of Paris Medical Tapes and related products.

1966

Feminex, a new economy-type sanitary napkin brand was launched, which expanded our market base in sanitary protection. This was the first Johnson & Johnson® product to carry a Filipino name. Packaging of sanitary products also shifted from cardboard to plastic bags.

1967

To give Johnson's® Baby Powder greater appeal, packaging was changed from cans to plastic bottles.

The Johnson & Johnson's® Credo: A Way of Life

"The evidence on this point is clear... Institutions, both public and private, exist because the people want them, believe in them, or at least willing to tolerate them. The day has passed when business was a private matter – if it ever really was. In a business society, every act of business has social consequence and may arouse public interest. Every time business hires, builds, sells or buys, it is acting for the... people as well as for itself, and it must be prepared to accept full responsibility for its acts..."

~ From "Or Forfeit Freedom" by General Robert Wood Johnson, 1947

With this kind of thinking, it is no wonder why General Johnson took it upon himself to write a simple one-page manifesto that defines, to put it simply, what Johnson & Johnson® stands for. "We believe," it begins. Known as the Credo, it goes on to describe the Company's principle of valuing customers, employees, the community, and stockholders – in that order.

"We are not in business to make profits," stated Johnson & Johnson® scion and legendary chairman General Robert Wood Johnson II, who authored the Credo, "we are in business to earn them by serving our customers." He believed that by putting the customer first, the business would be well served.

Written in 1943, the Credo represented what Johnson called "a new industrial philosophy" that was far ahead of its time in contending that corporations have responsibilities beyond the manufacturing and marketing of products. This belief was put to the acid test when, in the autumn of 1982, it became horrifyingly clear that the deaths of seven people in the United States had been caused by cyanide-laced capsules of Tylenol®. Johnson & Johnson® acted swiftly: it alerted the public through the media, stopped production and pulled advertising of Tylenol®, and recalled and destroyed thirty-one million capsules at a cost of $100 million. Within months, the Company introduced triple-safety-sealed, tamper-resistant packaging.

The Credo is a compass that has guided the Company successfully through crisis. Beyond mere words framed on the wall, the Credo represents a set of values that the Johnson & Johnson® community shares and lives by.

"Once you are a Johnson & Johnson® employee, you are expected to take the Credo to heart because the expectation is that you have to find congruence between the Credo and your personal values," explains Owi Salazar, Director for Human Resources of Johnson & Johnson® Philippines. "If there is no consistency between the two, you will find no satisfaction and fulfillment in what you are doing."

Contributing to the Credo's strength, longevity and success as the moral compass of the Company is the fact that the document has been able to adapt with the times. To ensure its relevance, the Credo has been revised several times through the years. Updates have included provisions recognizing the changing role of fathers in the family, the importance of the environment, and the balance between work and family.

Another key to the success of the Credo is its universality. Translated into thirty-six languages, it is the thread that binds the Family of Companies that spans across Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America.

In the Philippines, the Credo has found its context in the Philippine culture. Salazar says, "The Credo doesn't dictate any boundaries in terms of application. As we are a developing country, there is a lot of emphasis on our role in nation building. We make it a part of our role to be active in our community through social investing, philanthropic activities, and in doing our share in uplifting the quality of life of nearby communities."

An example of the commitment of Johnson & Johnson® Philippines to the community is the Employee Volunteerism under the wing of the Company's "Credo-Based Corporate Social Responsibility" program. Unlike previous years when philanthropic work was largely a management effort, employees are encouraged to be personally involved in community initiatives of the Company. In line with this, Johnson & Johnson® Philippines renewed its partnership with World Vision, a sponsorship program for school children. Today, sixty employees have "adopted" one hundred-sixty children through the World Vision campaign.

A beacon through crisis; a guide for day-to-day running of companies around the globe; the Johnson & Johnson® Credo continues to chart the course of the Company more profoundly than any strategic business document could because of its unique ability to affect every member of the Johnson & Johnson® family on a personal level.

Mr. Poch Robles with Ms. Rosa Rosal.

HR Director Mr. Owi Salazar

Our Credo

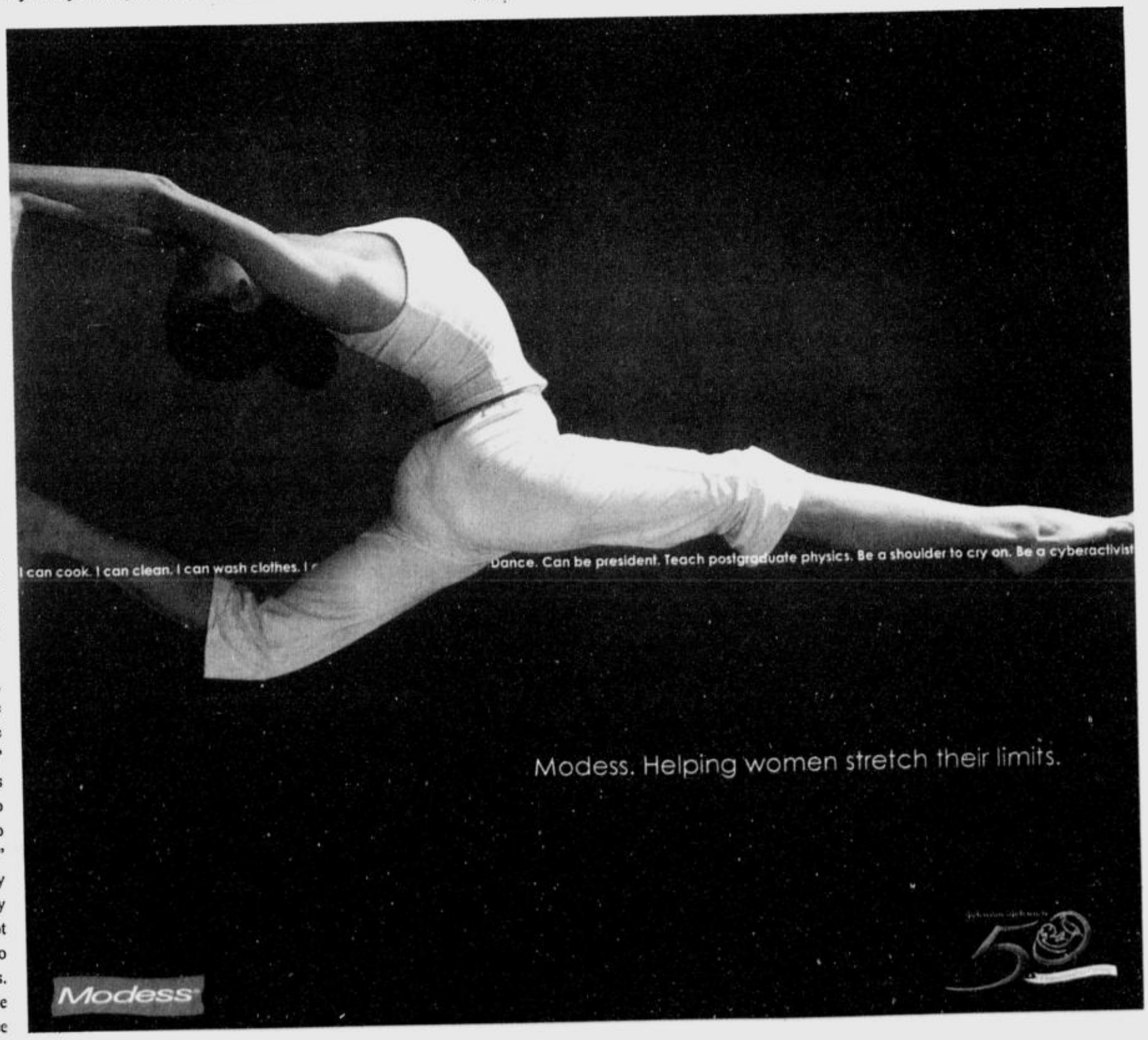
We believe our first responsibility is to the doctors, nurses and patients, to mothers and fathers and all others who use our products and services,
In meeting their needs everything we do must be of high quality.
We must constantly strive to reduce our costs in order to maintain reasonable prices.
Customers' orders must be serviced promptly and accurately.
Our suppliers and distributors must have an opportunity to make a fair profit.

We are responsible to our employees, the men and women who work with us throughout the world.
Everyone must be considered as an individual.
We must respect their dignity and recognize their merit.
They must have a sense of security in their jobs.
Compensation must be fair and adequate,and working conditions clean, orderly and safe.
We must be mindful of ways to help our employees fulfill their family responsibilities.
Employees must feel free to make suggestions and complaints.
There must be equal opportunity for employment, development and advancement for those qualified.
We must provide competent management, and their actions must be just and ethical.

We are responsible to the communities in which we live and work and to the world community as well.
We must be good citizens – support good works and charities and bear our fair share of taxes.
We must encourage civic improvements and better health and education.
We must maintain in good order the property we are privileged to use, protecting the environment and natural resources.

Our final responsibility is to our stockholders.
Business must make a sound profit.
We must experiment with new ideas.
Research must be carried on, innovative programs developed and mistakes paid for.
New equipment must be purchased, new facilities provided and new products launched.
Reserves must be created to provide for adverse times.
When we operate according to these principles, the stockholders should realize a fair return.

Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.



70's

1975

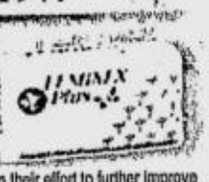
Dr. Onofre C. Carlaso spearheaded the development of Stayfree®, the first beltless sanitary napkin to be introduced in the Philippines.

1976

Modess® Beltless Napkins followed due to strong demand for beltless napkins.

80's

1979



In their effort to further improve their sanitary protection products, FEMINEX PLUS and MODESS® LIGHTS were introduced. SHOWER-TO-SHOWER bath products were also launched. Tylenol® was relaunched locally.

1980

Carefree® Panty Shields joined the other sanitary products in the market.

1982

Controversy enveloped TYLENOL® in the United States, due to the cyanide-laced tablet, which killed several people. The product's distribution started to fade locally and was discontinued.

1990

Launched Johnson's® Face Powder. This marks the first time in the company's history that a product was specifically made to target the young adults. This represented a fresh burst of activity for the company's marketing and manufacturing teams.

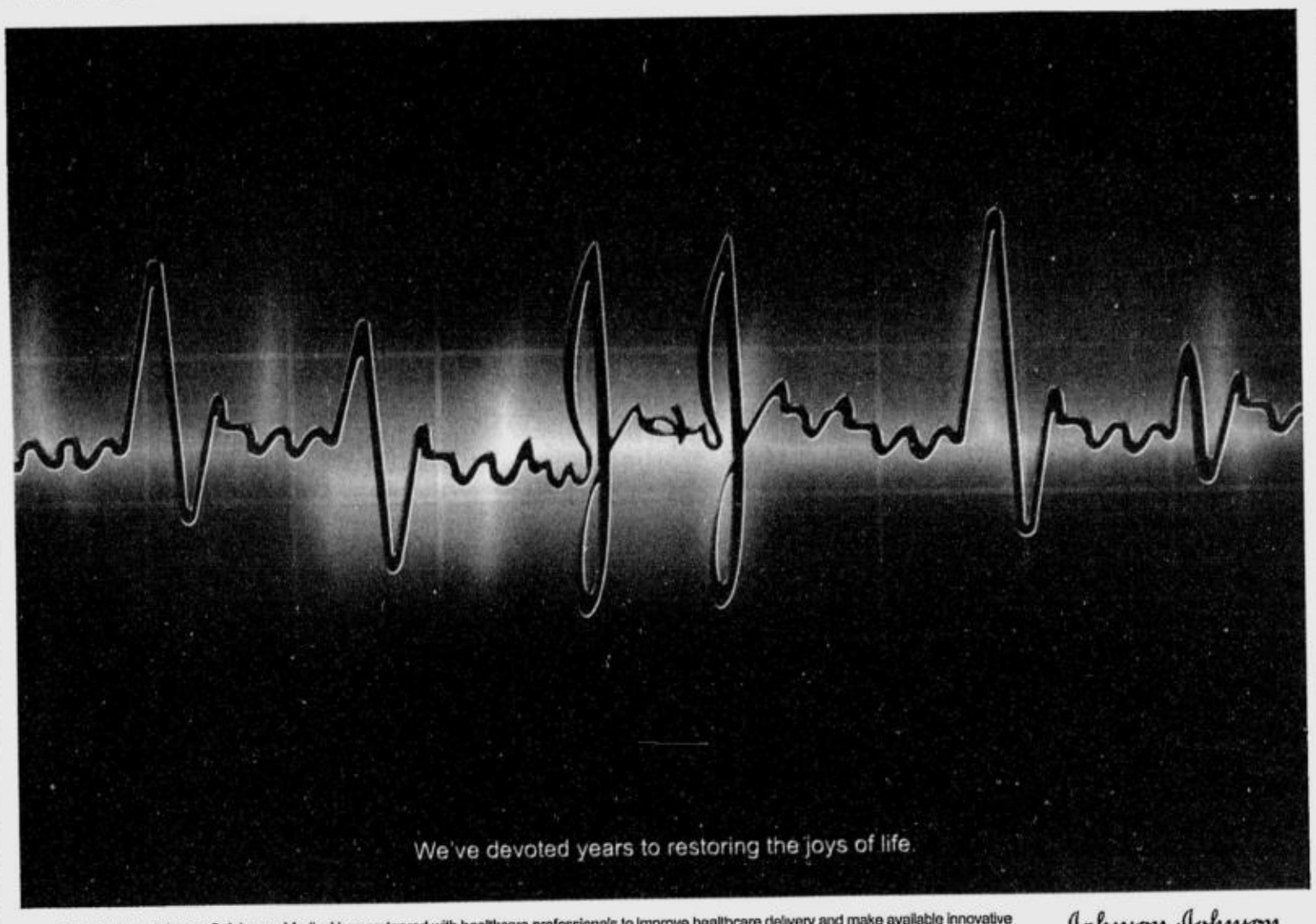
90's

1992

Celebrated 100 years of Johnson's® Baby Powder with the launch of JOHNSON'S® BABY POWDER BLOSSOMS.

1995

Johnson & Johnson® continues to innovate in sanitary protection with back-to-back launches of CAREFREE® ULTRA-THINS SANITARY NAPKINS, MODESS® ULTRA WITH WINGS and MODESS® ULTRA MAXI W/FLOW GUARD.



For 50 years, Johnson & Johnson Medical has partnered with healthcare professionals to improve healthcare delivery and make available innovative treatment options for Filipinos – from simple wound closure to minimally invasive surgery, from disinfectants to high level sterilization, from orthopedic castings to computer assisted surgery, from cardiac catheters to drug eluting stents, and from glucose monitoring to diabetes management. Trust us to continue with our commitment in the pursuit of innovations that will help restore the joys of life.

Johnson & Johnson MEDICAL PHILIPPINES

Cordis Groundbreaking. Life Changing. | DePuy. Transforming orthopedic care | ETHICON Innovators in wound closure | ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC. Transforming patient care through innovations | LIFESCAN OneTouch changes everything | ASP Advanced Surface Technologies

Bringing Back Life's Joys

Every single day, our goal at Johnson & Johnson® Medical is to make many people in our part of the world partake in the joys of life by bringing to them the most innovative solutions in the management of their medical conditions.

What we do each day helps improve the quality of life of people with diabetes by allowing them to enjoy a world without limits. Our products help people with chronic joint and back pain walk and stand with ease and bring back the excitement of waking up to a new day... pain free. We are committed to improving lives by creating an infection-free world and enabling surgeons to provide better surgical care and better clinical outcomes to patients. What we do each day has a profound impact on the quality of life of people with vascular disease. We have a strong commitment to continue the groundbreaking work in the fight against vascular disease.

The people of Johnson & Johnson® Medical are committed to developing and maintaining new technologies and superior products that meet and exceed healthcare needs better than anyone else. As a trusted corporation, we focus on finding new and innovative solutions to diseases and disorders that cause mortality or prevent people from living to their full potential.

We live by our standards of high performance and flawless execution because millions of people count on us to deliver on our commitment everyday. Millions of doctors, patients and parents use our products and each one of them depends on us to make sure these products are safe, reliable and effective. This is the promise we make to them and our ability to keep this promise is what makes Johnson & Johnson® Medical a trust mark for millions of people around the world. We earn our reputation everyday. Our standards of high performance and flawless execution are the guiding principles that help us identify and nurture the most promising innovations.

In a world of growing complexity, growing competition and growing need, we at Johnson & Johnson® Medical are committed to growing from strength to strength – from the medical devices and diagnostics field to minimally invasive surgery to pharmaceuticals to biopharmaceuticals to consumer products – in order to touch more patients and restore to them the joys of life.

A Midwife Lives Her Dream

"I come from a big family. I am the eldest among ten children. *I really wanted to think of a way to help my parents right away. It was my father's dream that I become a midwife. It was actually his dream for his youngest sister but it wasn't realized because of financial problems. My father really strived so that I could study to become a midwife,"* recounts Carolina Millan, a recipient of the Johnson & Johnson® Outstanding Midwives Awards of the Philippines (JOMAP).

Today, Carolina is living this dream. A graduate from the Marian School of Midwifery in 1974, Carolina is a fully certified midwife who today, runs her own Well-Family midwife clinic in Barangay Rizal, Makati.

Carolina's achievements in her field were first cited in Year 2000, when she was named one the 10 Most Outstanding Midwives of the country by JOMAP. Founded in 1994, the awards program is a joint annual project of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc. and Johnson & Johnson® affiliate companies, namely Johnson & Johnson® Philippines, Johnson & Johnson® Medical Philippines and Janssen Pharmaceutical.

The program aims to give due recognition to midwives for their noble efforts as front-liners in delivering healthcare service to low-income Filipino families. Midwives are responsible for majority of births in the country where up to 81% of deliveries occur outside the hospital. The award also aims to raise the standards of the midwifery profession while inspiring other midwives around the country to follow the awardee's example.

"I never thought that I would win this award. I was so excited because that was my first award. *It was nice that I got it while I was still young and my children could see it so that they could follow this example.* This award has been an inspiration for me," says Carolina.

Carolina's award and present success is a product of a lifetime of hard work and perseverance. The establishment of her lying-in clinic and private practice did not happen overnight. It all started with an idea that she got while working as a government midwife.

"It's been my life's dream to put up a lying-in clinic. When I worked in the health center, I used to do home births. *There were times when they were happening all at the same time.* In a day, there would be five deliveries outside. I couldn't figure out how to divide my time between five patients. And so I did a test. What I did was to bring them to my home and deliver the babies on the floor; this way I could attend to them all at the same time. That's how I got the idea for a lying-in clinic," recalls Carolina.

Carolina was determined to turn her idea into a reality. She worked overseas for five years in order to save up money for her dream community clinic. The time away from her loved ones proved to be difficult, but her self-sacrifice paid off. In 1991, Carolina was able to set up a 2-bedroom clinic just across from her house.

In 1997, Carolina was tapped by IMAP to join a network called the Well-Family Midwife Clinic. Through the support and training of this network, Carolina was able to expand her clinic. Today, her Well-Family Clinic has grown into a 9-bedroom birthing center, offering a wide variety of services from newborn screening to ultra sound examinations. Carolina was also able to enhance her services with Johnson & Johnson®-supported programs such as Touch Therapy and baby care education.

"Johnson & Johnson® has really helped me a lot. *Mothers appreciate being taught how to take better care of their babies. Through Touch Therapy training, they learn that every touch means something... you can see that the baby really responds to the massage... there's more bonding with the parents. Mothers also appreciate the Johnson's® Baby Starter Kits and Modess® Maternity kits they receive when they give birth... We also use the Johnson & Johnson® educational materials in our Mothers' Classes,"* explains Carolina.

Carolina is truly an example of a person living her dream and making a difference in the community. More than 6,000 babies have been delivered safely into world because of her, and her selflessness and commitment to her profession continues to be an inspiration to her fellow midwives.

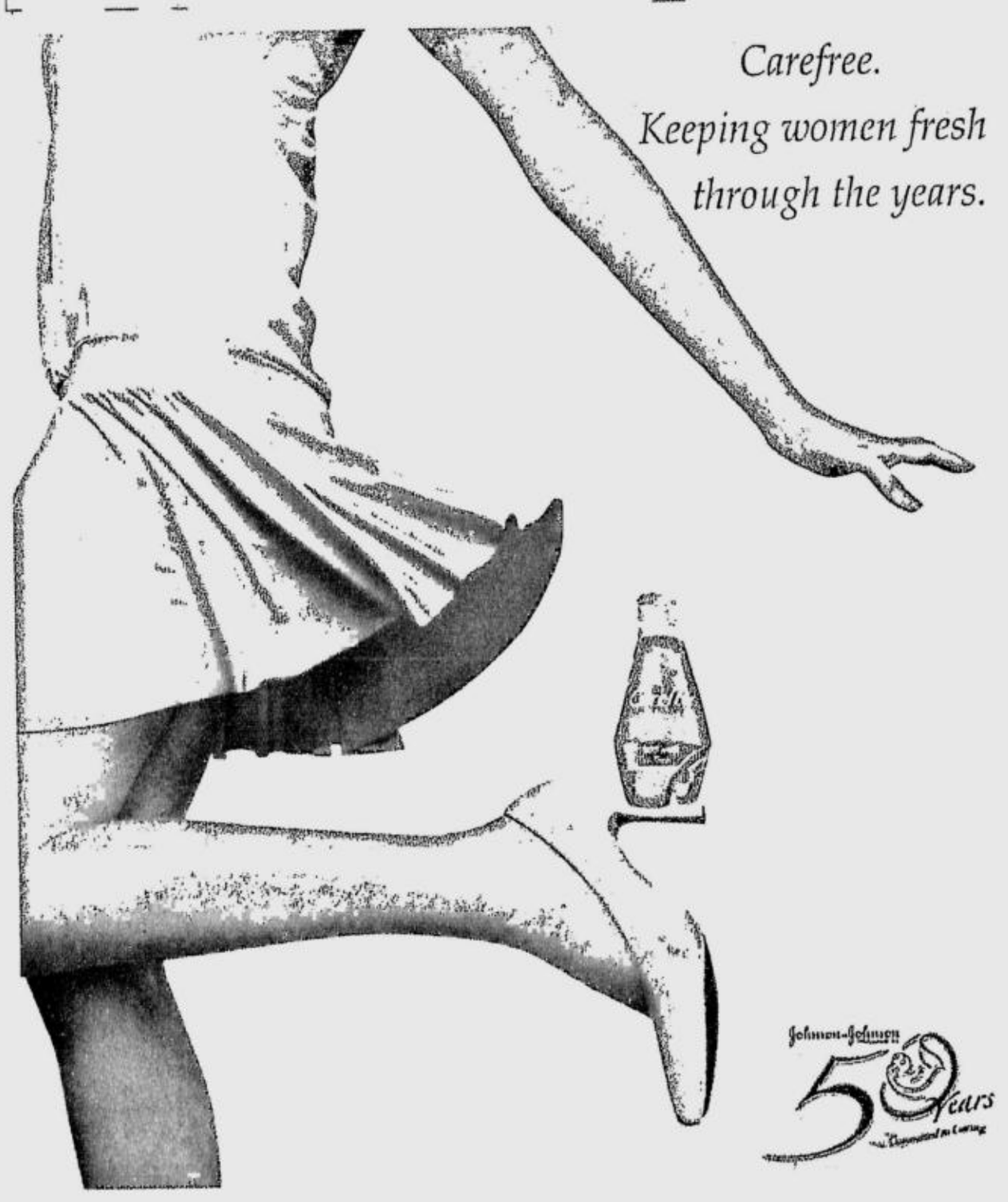
FROM THE WORDS OF LIVES CHANGED

AUGUSTO D. LITONJUA, MD *Leading endocrinologist, on importance of blood glucose monitoring*
"Self monitoring of blood glucose (SMBG) is required to determine the recent patterns of preprandial and post prandial glucose levels. Each patient therefore must be willing to adopt SMBG if only to reduce the complications due to inadequate control of their blood sugars."

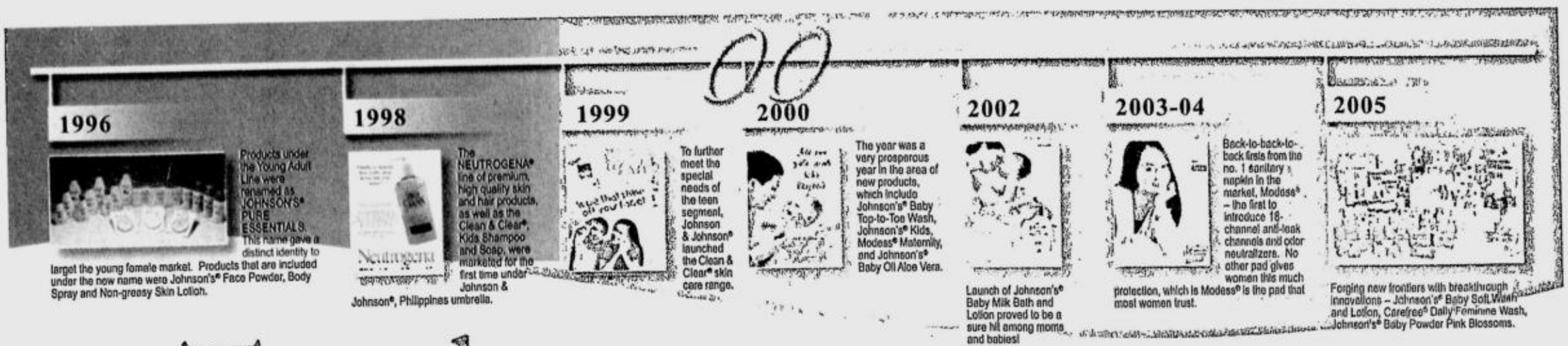
GRACE SANTOS *Loving mother, kids using OneTouch™ blood glucose meter*
" Being a mother of two diabetic sons is emotionally, physically and financially draining. But I never lost hope. Although there is no existing cure yet for diabetes, I'm very thankful that OneTouch™ allows me to regularly monitor their sugar level, and based on the result plan their meals and activities for the day. That way I can at least prevent attacks of hypoglycemia and spare my kids from complications of the disease."

RAMONCITO CAMPOS *3 time Olympian, patient of total knee replacement*
" Before undergoing total knee replacement surgery I couldn't even go down the stairs. I have to go down sideways. So I had to make a choice, whether I be in pain for the rest of my life or undergo surgery and get my normal life back. After the surgery, there's no more pain! That is the biggest improvement for me.

ARCHBISHOP RICARDO J. CARDINAL VIDAD *Archbishop of Cebu, patient of coronary stenting procedure*
" The procedure has proven to be a savior. Coronary stenting procedure provided me with something special, which is a new lease in my life. And with that I promise the people of Cebu to serve them well."



Johnson & Johnson 50 Years



Touch, the Language of Love

Johnson's baby Touch
Celebrating 10 Years in Asia Pacific

One of the first instincts a mother has upon seeing her baby for the first time is to cradle her little one in her arms and gently touch her. Through her touch, a mother expresses a love that she has felt growing inside her for nine months in a way words could never convey.

Touch is a language Johnson & Johnson® intimately understands. In 2005, Johnson's Baby celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Touch Therapy Program in the Philippines. This program has raised awareness of the many benefits of touch and infant massage among mothers and healthcare professionals. It is a key initiative of the Johnson & Johnson® Touch Research Institute in the Philippines, which was founded in 1989 through a collaboration between Johnson & Johnson® Philippines and the Philippine General Hospital. Notably, this is one of only three such institutes in the world, the other two being in Miami and Paris respectively.

"Johnson's® Baby understands the universal desire of mothers to have happy, healthy babies. Coupled with the superior products that we provide, Johnson's® Baby advocates the use of Touch as a tool in raising happy, healthy babies," explains Tina Sabarre, marketing manager of Johnson & Johnson® Philippines.

Research shows that both parents and babies benefit emotionally and physically from touch therapy and infant massage. Babies who are regularly massaged enjoy a better, stronger bond with their parents. Fathers, in the meantime, get a boost of self-esteem because of their deeper involvement in the care of their child.

The physical benefits of touch therapy are also substantial. Premature babies have been observed to increase their weight by forty-seven percent after a ten-day program using touch therapy. Pre-term infants who were massaged regularly were discharged five days earlier than infants who were not.

"Touch therapy has definite clinical benefits for children, especially pre-term infants. Infant massage has been found to strengthen the respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems of pre-terms aiding in their heightened growth and faster physical development. Thus, survival chances of high-risk pre-term babies are significantly increased. Massage also relaxes the body and mind, helping babies sleep better, and encourages their overall physical development," expounds Dr. Ma. Louisa Unson-Peralta, M.D., Johnson & Johnson® Philippines' "Face of Touch Ambassador".

Full-term babies and older children stand to benefit as well from touch therapy. Touch helps babies to relax to ensure proper health and growth, while strengthening the immune system. A study conducted at the Touch Research Institute in Florida found that massage resulted in the significant increase in white blood cell count, critical in boosting the body's defense against disease.

Touch has social and cognitive development benefits as well. Infants who are massaged have been observed to be more responsive to their parents by exhibiting more eye contact as well as more smiling, vocalizing, reaching and orienting responses.

A study among pre-school children, meanwhile, showed that the children's performance on design, animal pegs and maze tests were improved after they were given a fifteen-minute massage.

The benefits of touch are numerous and significant. It is one of the simplest and best ways parents can give their baby a happy and healthy start in life. Johnson & Johnson® recognizes this and through its Touch Therapy Program, the company hopes to educate and encourage more people to "speak" the first language a baby understands.

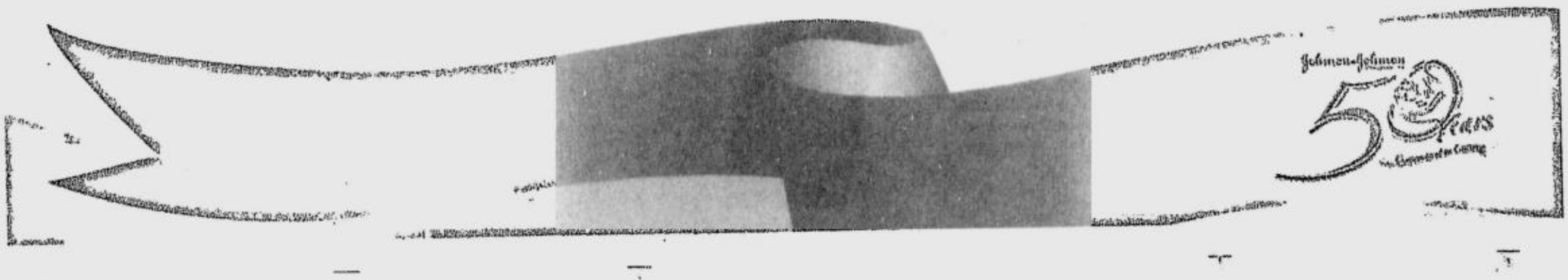
Generations of Caring through Johnson's® Baby Powder

It was quite by accident that JOHNSON & JOHNSON®, today known around the world as having "created the universally recognized scent of a baby," got into the baby powder business.

In 1890 a physician had written to the Company about one of his patients complaining of skin irritation from using a medicated plaster. Fred B. Kilmer, the Company's chief scientist, suggested talc to soothe the irritated skin. A small tin of talcum powder was from then on included with plaster mixes. Eventually, it was discovered that the talc alleviated another common skin irritation: diaper rash. And so JOHNSON'S® Toilet & Baby Powder was born.

Over many decades later, JOHNSON'S® Baby Powder continues to be a trusted friend to generation after generation of babies and the parents that nurture them. It remains the most enduring, most widely used baby product in the world and its delicate scent, which has not changed since it first was introduced, brings back tender memories of childhood for millions across the globe.

Sa bawat panahon, sa bawat henerasyon,
habang may inang nagmamahal may Johnson's Baby.



RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES

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EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COMICS STRIP? To better improve the Inquirer Comics Sunday section, we'd like to know what your favorite comic strips are:

1. Choose your favorite comic strip among the current titles we have now: **a.**Ragnarok **b.**Moomoo hunters **c.**Garfield **d.**Mothergoose and Grimm **e.**Pugad Baboy **f.**Inday Wanda **g.**Zits **h.**Full House
2. Text **inquirer life name/age/city/letter of your choice/reason for your answer** to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

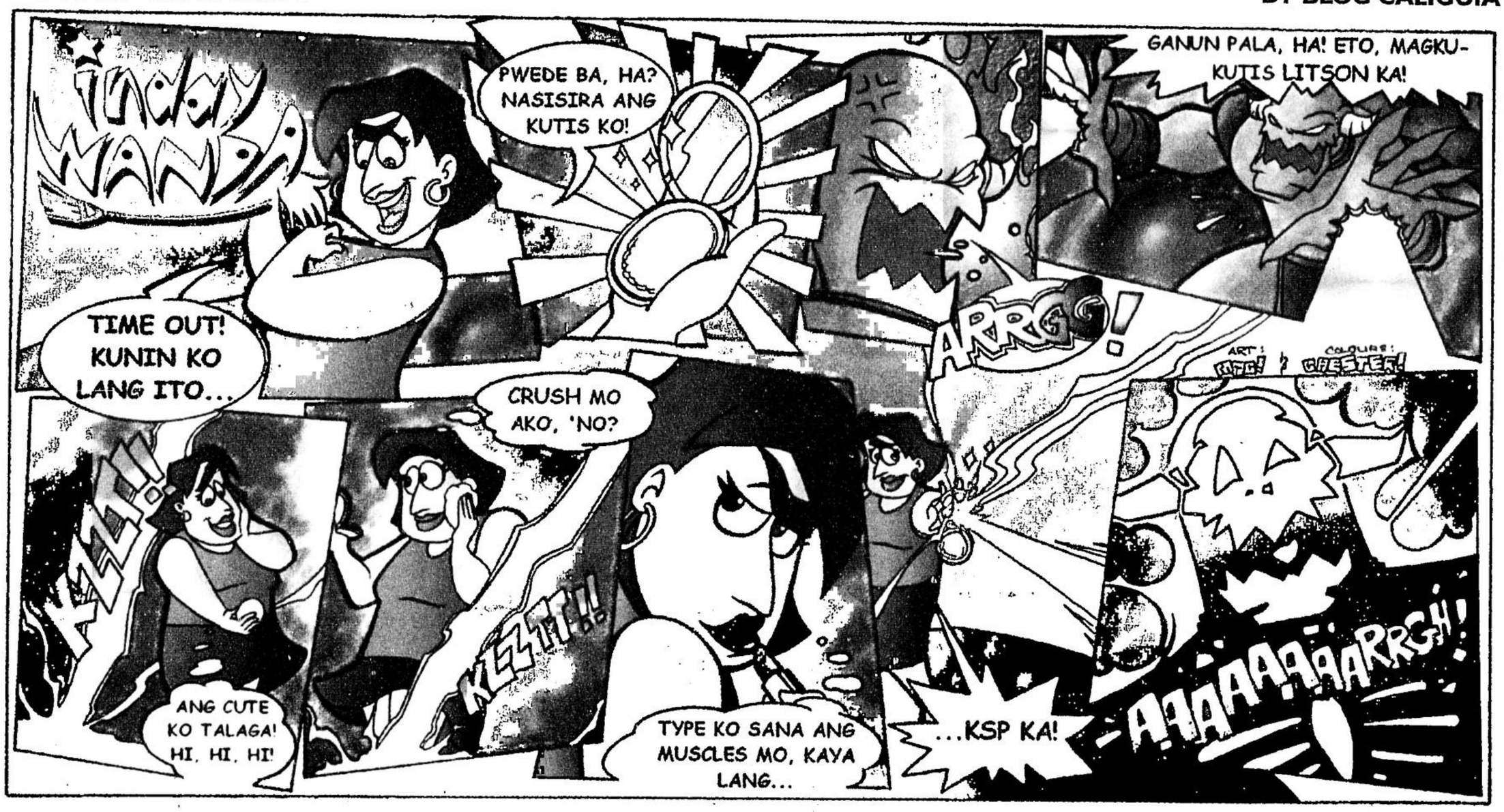
BY MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA

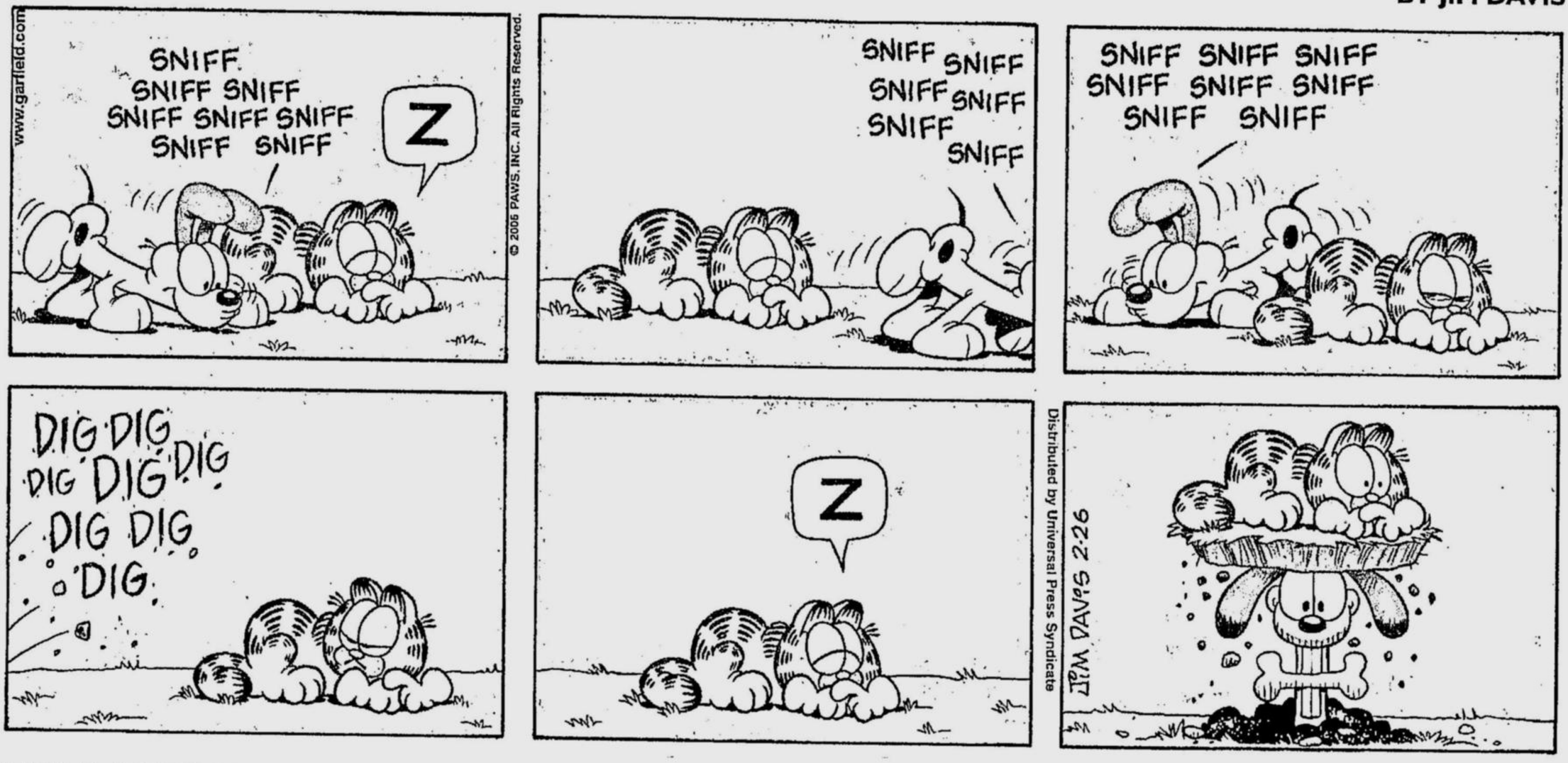


MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS

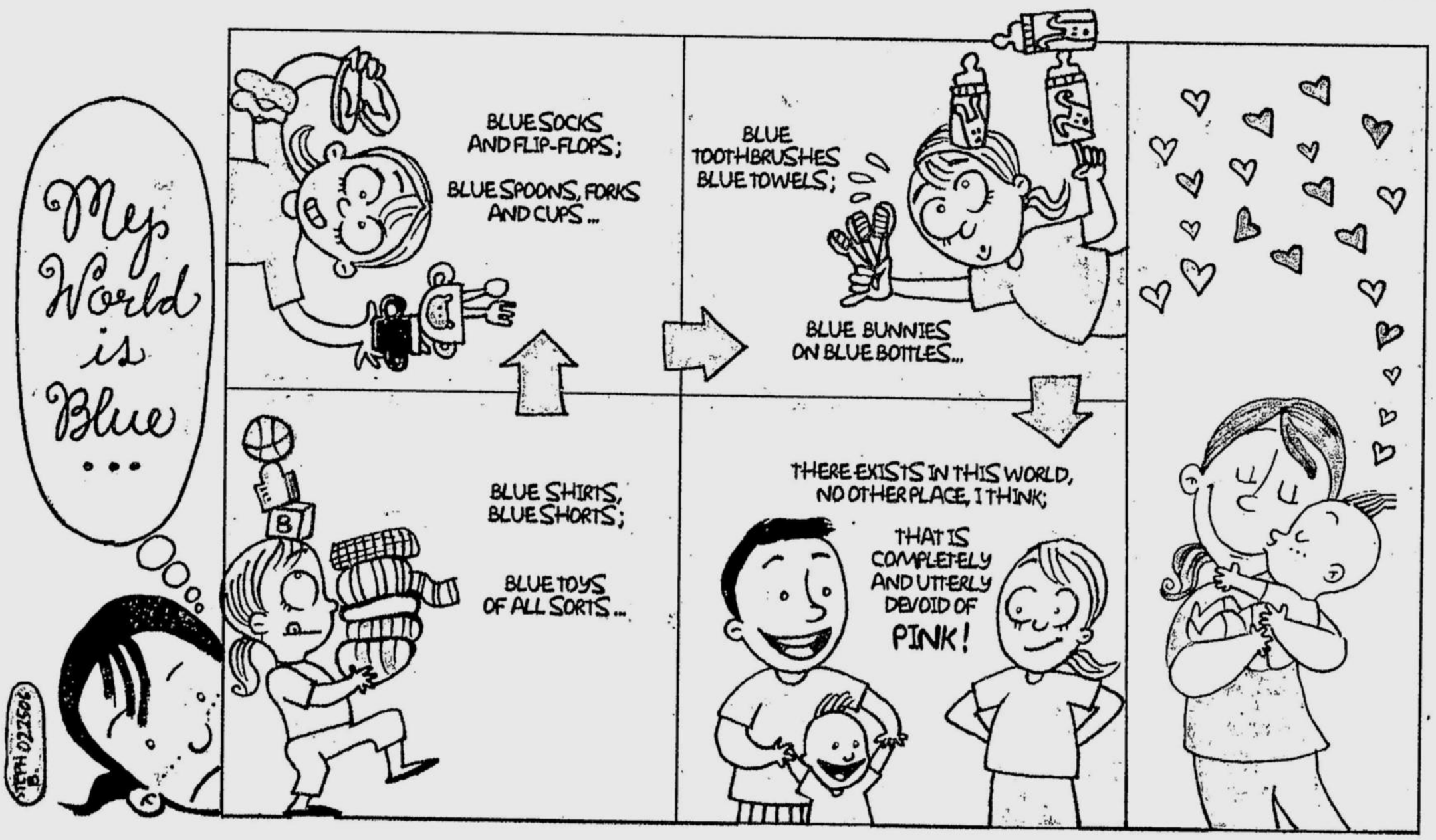
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



February 26, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

'I will return to fight another day'

by Jim Paredes
photographs by Romy Homillada

I WASN'T going to write about this until I was ready. I am ready now. Yes, it's true. I am moving with my family to Australia.

I thought of migrating in 1998, a few months after Erap had won. Even if I did not vote for him, I was (in hindsight) naively hopeful that he would be a leader who would prove his detractors wrong. I was not just ready, but hoping to be surprised. As it turned out, I was wrong. Instead, I found myself, with so many others, quite disgusted and disappointed with how things turned out. I saw little hope for the next six years.

How depressingly different the future seemed at that point compared to the optimism I felt in 1986 when I and my APO group mates, Danny Javier and Boboy Garrovillo, joined several million Filipinos in breaking the dictator's repressive grip on our country. Edsa I was the glorious, euphoric culmination of years of struggle to win back our freedoms. It was the bold, victorious step we collectively took to redirect the country to the path to greatness.

We in the APO had done our humble part through our performances that somehow helped inspire fellow Filipinos to struggle for a different future. In the last months before Edsa I, the APO was banned from the controlled media, radio and TV, and prohibited from using government venues like Ultra, Folk Arts Theater and the Cultural Center.

To page 6

Yes, it's true: the APO who wrote the Edsa anthem is disappointed, and migrating to Australia. But, being hopelessly Pinoy, it's definitely not goodbye for good

Her parents' gift of gab, *p.4* | Not just DIs, but athletes, *p.5* | Chito Gascon's revolution, *p.8*

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Haiku sa Ultra (Isang Trahedya)

Istampid

Tiket ng buhay
Inasam na ginhawa
Tulak sa hukay

Sa mga Biktima

Mahal na Diyos
Buksan mo ang pultada
Langit na mal'wang

Pera o Bayong

Bayong, bayong na!
Pinagpalit sa pera ...
Sangyutang dagan!

Sa Naulila

Imbis na datung
Pasalubong ni Nanay
Gintong kabaong

Lolito R. Go Jr.

Limot na Kita

Limot na kita, noon pa
Yan ang totoo.
Maliban lang marahil
Kapag may mabining ambon
At ako'y walang payong.
Hawak ko noon
Ang iyong kamay;
Nakaupo sa may damuhan
Tinitingnan ang paglubog ng araw.
Walang salitaan
Ngunit naririnig natin ang isinisigaw
Ng ating mga puso.
Limot na kita, yan ang totoo
Maniwala ka.
Maliban marahil
Kapag may lumang awitin
At ako'y mapapasabay sa pagkanta;
Tulad noong may dala akong gitara.
Makatapos, tayo'y matatawa
At titingnan mo ako sa mga mata
At ngingitian kita.
Limot na kita, maniwala ka
Noon pa man.
Maliban marahil
Kapag ako'y nadaraan
Sa mga lugar na pamilyar
Na naging saksi sa aking pag-ibig
Na nawaglit sa bilis ng buhay;
Na hanggang ngayo'y
Di natin maunawaan kumbakit
Minsang nawaglit na lamang
Ang di malilimutang pagmamahal.
Pilit kitang nililimot
Ngunit lalaging malimit
Ang mga lumang awit;
Talagang maulan sa ating bayan;
At sadyang nagdaraan ako
Sa mga pamilyar na lugar.

Reuel Molina Aguila

Bula

Pamilyar ang mukhang tumambad sa telebisyon
Ang nangingintab na mga kamay na babad sa paglalabada
Pares ng paang nagkakalyo, tsinelas na walang isang paa
Bulto ng katawang nakapaloob sa kupas nang kamiseta
At ang eskapularyong naglilibag

Habang ikinakamada ang mga katawang walang buhay
Nadaanan ng kamera, ang hapis mong pisngi
Di kita inaalisan ng tingin
Nagbabakasakaling may kaunti pang hiningang natitira
Hinihintay ang ngiting nakasanayan, ngunit maramot ka

Paano na ang walong bibig ng inakay na tanging sa'yo lang umaasa?
Saan pa dadapo ang kamao ng asawang iresponsable?
Sino pa ang makakatalamitam ni Tomasang labandera
Paano na ang pangarap ng pagbangon, ng pagbabalik-probinsiya?
Sino nang ilaw ng bahay ninyong walang tarangkahan?

Kung nagkasya ka na lamang ba kasi sa panunuod
Mula sa malilit na siwang ng bintana ng ating kapitbahay.

Mary Ann Cariquez

Erratum: *In the story "Weaving A Message for Women With The Threads of Her Art" by Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez (SIM, 12 February 2006), the photographs were by Alma Quinto.*

Twists of Fate

by Agnes Españo-Dimzon

She found love and the sweet life in the troubled farms of Negros

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BACOLOD CITY—When Seiko Ohashi Bodios first came to Negros in 1991, she saw from the plane the vast green fields of the island. "Why is there so much hunger in this wide green pasture?" she had wondered to herself.

The 45-year-old liaison officer of the Japan Committee for Negros Campaign (JCNC) has since revised her impression of the province. Although she saw first-hand the grinding poverty that had farm workers ending up as lifetime servants to landowners to pay off their debts, Seiko fell in love with the island and its people.

In fact, she married a local farmer eight years her senior who has five children from a previous relationship, despite initial objections from her father. "I will live the rest of my life in Negros because the women, children and men in this island really make my life rich and valuable," she declares.

Bloody conflicts

Seiko had come to the Philippines as a representative of JCNC, which started out by giving relief services to Negros evacuees who fled their homes in the face of Oplan Thunderbolt. The operation was part of the government's total war policy and was meant to crush the rebellion that resulted from agrarian conflict in the province. The crash of the sugar industry in the early 1980s led wealthy *hacenderos* or landlords to abandon their vast sugar lands, which the farmers eventually took over for their food crops. Bloody conflicts ensued between landowners and farmers, with the turf war spilling all over Negros.

The Japanese foundation now helps facilitate people-to-people trading between the farmers' cooperatives in Negros and consumer groups in Japan. This alternative trading scheme allows farmer producers to directly market their goods to consumers at better prices instead of passing through middlemen. Their products—green bananas, muscovado sugar and organic vegetables—are also a break from refined sugar, a monocrop that has tied Negros to the whims of the international market.

The program has helped rehabilitate the socio-economic life of dislocated farm workers after the United States, one of the world's biggest buyers of sugar, drastically cut back its quota.

Despite their difficulties, the people welcomed her into their homes and generously shared what they had, recalls Seiko. "I spent several nights in the house

Seiko Ohashi's father disowned her when she became an activist and married a Filipino farmer from Negros. But she stayed to raise his five children, and to dedicate herself to improving the lives of the poor in her adopted home

of a *sacada* in La Castellana, which was about two hours from Bacolod City. I thought I knew enough about the Philippines and its people from my previous visits to other provinces, but this experience gave me a very different view," she adds. The people were good to her, sharing what little food they had and their most comfortable space for Seiko to sleep in.

Foreign visitor

"I told them, 'Sorry to disturb you, but can I stay for some more days to learn about your life?' They said, 'Don't be sorry. We are very proud to have you in our house. We thought only *hacenderos* can have guests. We are happy that even if our house is small, we can also have a foreign visitor. We are no longer second class citizens.' "

Seiko's immersion in peasant life was a dramatic break from her past. "I come from a typical Japanese family where children were expected to become either doctors or lawyers, and the daughters got married—immediately," she says. Becoming an activist changed everything, however. It started when she became a student at a university in Hokkaido in 1975, the year Vietnam was liberated.

"Some dormitory friends invited me to attend a youth solidarity conference in Thailand. I was very apolitical then, and it was not for anything that I said yes. I was just happy to go abroad. I did not really understand what they were talking about," she recalls.

She went with a group of students to a farming town outside Bangkok and talked with a farmer who had to stop working his land because it had been poisoned by wastes coming from a Mitsubishi plant.

"I realized that Japan became rich because it was doing these things to other people, other countries," says Seiko. "I decided that I had to do something to make up for what my country was doing." She adds: "I did not want to go back, but my friends told me we had to do something to change our country. Without changing Japan, they said, we would not be able to change anything."

Seiko did not go home to Hokkaido but stayed for several years in Tokyo, where she worked to support herself through university and got involved with human rights groups. "My father cut off my allowance because he thought I had joined the Red Army," she recounts, laughing.

In 1991, Seiko was assigned to the Philippines as JCNC's liaison officer. Her international solidarity work took a personal dimension when she met Fred Bodios, now 53, a farmer and fisherman, who himself was very much involved with the evacuees in Negros at that time. Fred has several children by his first wife: Marygrace, now 27; Alfredo Jr., 25; Al, 23; Gretchen, 19, and Sisa, 18. Her husband is now barangay captain of Nayon village, Seiko declares proudly.

"My father was shocked. 'Why get married at 40, and to a Filipino?' he asked."

Strained relationship

The marriage further strained their relationship, but when her father got sick of lung cancer, Seiko went home and stayed in Japan to take care of him. Those three months made up for the 30 years they spent apart after the old man disowned her. He died about three years ago.

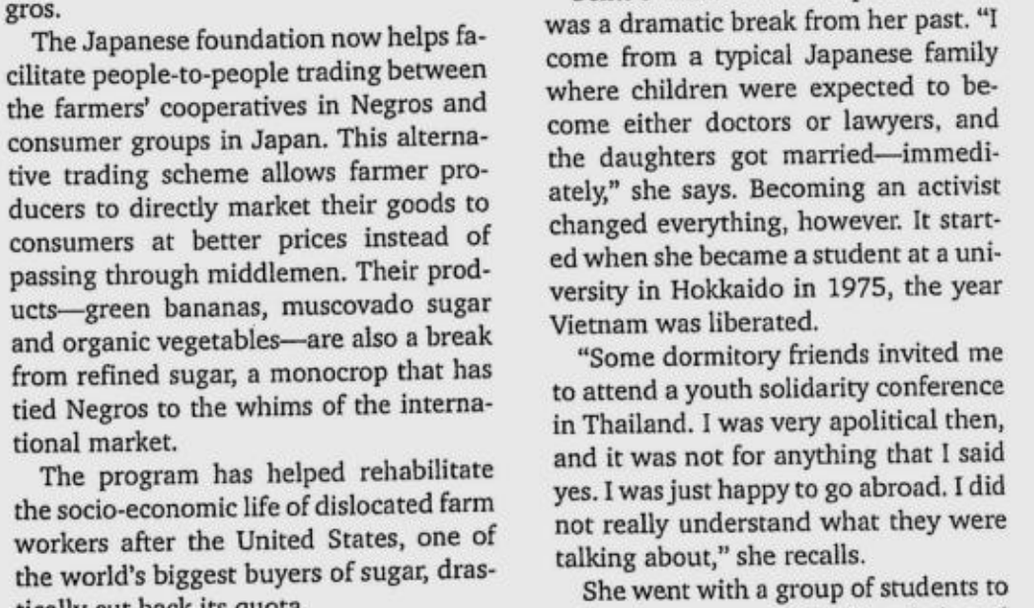
"He told me it was good that I married a Filipino because a Japanese husband would never 'loan' his wife to take care of her sick father," she says. "Besides, Fred charmed his way into the heart of my very conservative mother."

Fred's daughters also impressed Seiko. In Japan, she says, people would not bother to change their routine to take care of a sick relative. "I remember the first time I got pregnant at 40 and had a miscarriage. I was so afraid, but my stepdaughters told me, *'Tita*, you don't need too many nurses and doctors. We will take care of you.' I cried so hard. We do not have anything like that in Japan," she narrates.

Her personal relationship with Fred and her stepdaughters echo Japan-Philippine relations in a way, observes Seiko. The Japanese donate money to help Negros farmers become independent. In return, the Japanese learn the value of human relationships from Filipinos. "Japan has become so developed that people seem to have stopped thinking and caring," she notes.

To page 4

Feeling rich: Working with Filipino women has made her life "rich and valuable," says Seiko (top row, right)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LoveNotes

by Joe 'D Mango

Living with love and guilt

It's been more than a year now since Oliver passed away, and yet, the pain is still as intense as ever

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Dear Joe,

I came across Oliver because of a text message mistakenly sent to me. The message was supposedly for my aunt, but he sent it to me. It was only after three days that Oliver informed me that he sent the message to the wrong person. But what I didn't understand was why he still wanted my landline after apologizing about the message. I gave it to him, and we began talking and texting each other regularly. Joe, it felt like I've known him for a long time. On Oct. 21, 2002, he asked me if I could be his girl. I know it was a stupid idea to say yes since I didn't even know what he looked like. But still, I followed what my heart was telling me, and so he became my boyfriend that day.

After two weeks, we decided to meet at a chapel. When I saw a guy walking inside the chapel, I immediately felt it was him. Oliver, on the other hand, felt the same way, too. Soon enough, I found myself getting acquainted with his family. Oliver told me that his family liked me. That was the first time I did something crazy, Joe—that is, meeting up with a total stranger who is technically my boyfriend, and even going with him to his house. But Joe, I loved the feeling, and there were really no regrets.

Sadly, my family didn't approve of him, since he had not finished his studies yet. But that didn't stop me from loving him.

Maybe my great love and faith in him inspired Oliver to continue his studies and straighten out his once chaotic life. His family was so glad, since they could see a great positive change in Oliver. We had an almost-perfect relationship, Joe. There were a lot of fights, but they didn't lessen our feelings and respect for each other. Instead, they made our love grow deeper.

Sadly, one night, we had a fight, and I told him that I wanted to end our relationship. It seemed like he couldn't bear the pain of losing me, Joe. That fateful dawn of Sept. 16, 2004, Oliver committed suicide.

It's been more than a year now since Oliver passed away, and yet the pain is still as intense as ever. A lot of people say that I need to move on and let Oliver go because he is now happy in heaven. It's easier said than done, Joe. I hate it when people condemn him. I know what he did was wrong, but I can't blame him. Not when it's really my fault.

My friends and family say that I have to look for someone to replace Oliver so that I could forget the pain. But I don't want to. I want to die loving Oliver, the same way that he died loving me. As crazy as it sounds, I still sleep with his shirt beside me every night so that I can feel him beside me. Every week I visit his tomb and talk to him often, as if he's alive.

Joe, please help me. I don't really know what to do about my life now. It's like my world stopped revolving when he left me. Worse, I sometimes even wish for my own death, just so I could see him again.

Sincerely Yours,
Apple

Dear Apple,

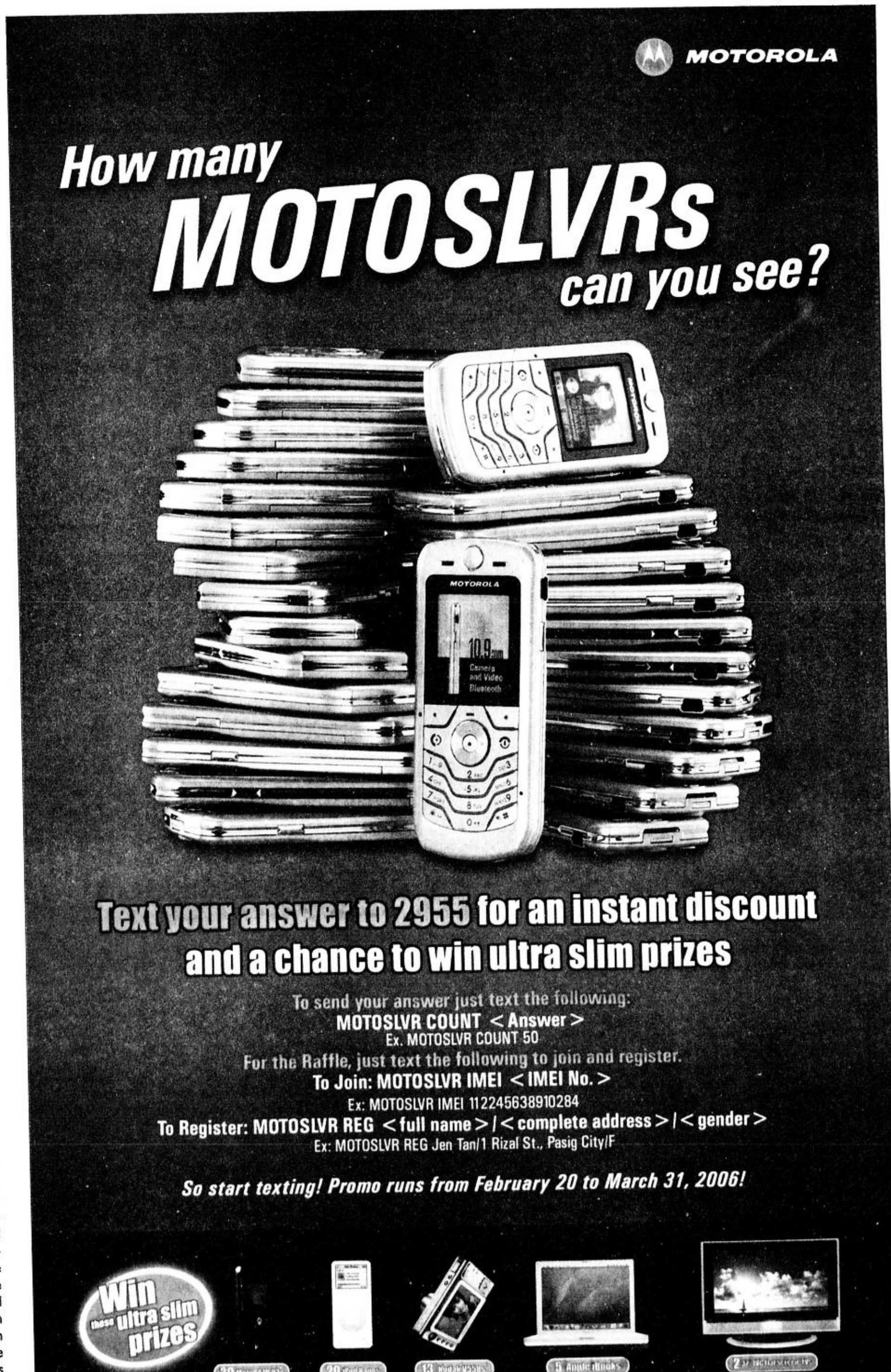
When we love someone so much we become part of that person, and when that person leaves us, he will always take a part of us with him. We have heard about so many people who decide to take their lives when they feel hopelessly alone and unwanted. Sometimes we are tempted to hurt ourselves to make our partners feel sorry for us and to make them feel bad about what they have done. Sometimes, people go beyond just hurting themselves, and put an end to the life that God has given them. They do this out of extreme pain and desperation. They do this because they have loved, and have been hurt beyond their capacity to bear pain. It is just sad to think that sometimes we can be capable of taking away a life that doesn't belong to us, but was just leased by God to fulfill our purpose here on earth.

Apple, Oliver must have been hurt so badly that he decided to quit life. That was his choice. It is something that he will have to be responsible for on Judgment Day.

Don't blame yourself for his death. Remember, every day hearts are broken and lives are shattered. But many of the victims of love choose not to give up and lose hope, for they know that God doesn't give us a test that we cannot possibly bear. No matter how difficult life may seem, there is always hope; there is always a promise of redemption. All we have to do is trust God.

Apple, always pray for Oliver and learn to let go of the guilt that imprisons you. You have to forgive yourself and accept that letting go of his life was his choice, not yours. Do not make the same judgment he made. Be strong and live your life in faith and hope. Teach yourself to love again. Just remember that we hold in our hands the capacity to make people happy or sad. We should make the right choice, and be instruments who bring joy and happiness to the lives of the people around us.

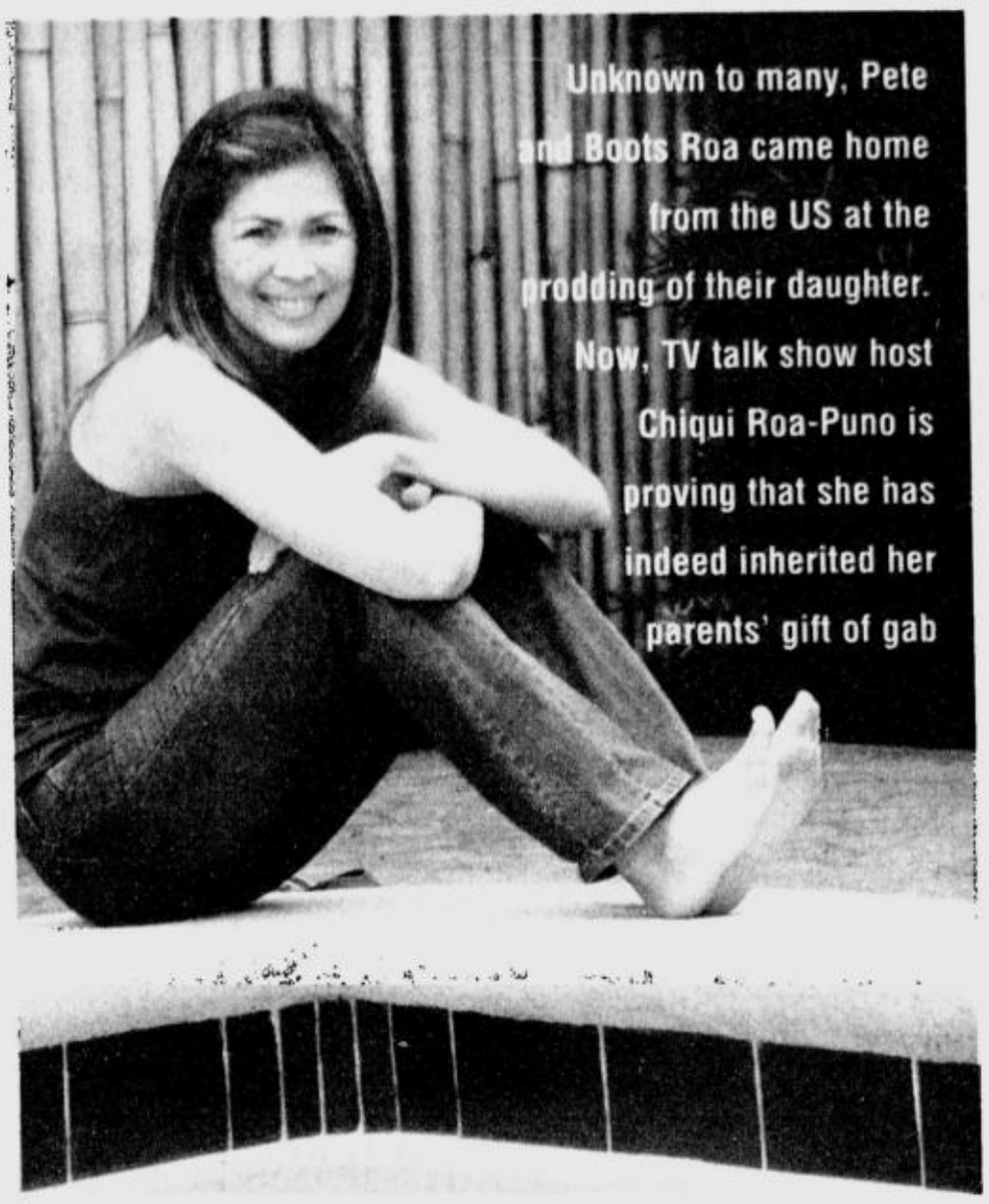
Thank you for writing, Apple. I sincerely hope that this will be a time for forgiveness, healing and acceptance in your heart. Q



Seen on TV

by Cathy S. Babao-Guballa

JOAN BONDOC



She came back to live out her 'mission' and brought her parents home with her

HIS is my favorite photo," television host and sportscaster Chiqui Roa-Puno says as she shows me a framed black and white photo of her chubby three-year-old self sitting on her mother's (movie and television actress Boots Anson-Roa) lap.

"Do you remember the house on B. Gonzales?" she asks me wistfully. Chiqui's older sister, Leah, and I had gone to the same elementary and high school in the early '80s. I tell her how different she now looks (from her old chubby self) and she breaks out in a laugh, "Yeah, this is the lightest and fittest I've ever been!" she says. "I guess it's par for the course. You won't feel good talking about fitness and sports if you don't live and look the part." This is one woman who likes to talk, and walk her talk at all times.

In 1982, Chiqui and her three siblings relocated to Northern Virginia, where Boots and broadcaster husband Pete Roa had decided to live a quieter life away from the limelight. "I was in 7th grade then and was your typical American co-ed. At first I had a difficult time adjusting—I looked different, so all the more I wanted to belong. And growing up as a teenager in America can be difficult so I know I gave my parents quite a tough time," she shakes her head at the recollection.

Reconnecting

College at George Mason University, where she graduated with a degree in Psychology (magna cum laude), was a different story. Finally finding herself after the turbulent teen years, she began to reconnect with her Filipino roots. "I thought to myself, so what if I looked different? All of a sudden I embraced my being Pinoy and started spending more time with the Filipino community."

After graduation, Chiqui worked for six months with the American Academy of Facial Plastic Surgeons, and it was then that she further questioned her life's purpose. "I'm a Pinoy, what am I doing here? Over here, I'm just a statistic. I was doing the 9-to-5 grind and I really asked myself, 'Is this what I want to do for the rest of my life?'" It was in late 1992, after 10 years in the United States, that Chiqui decided it was time to come home.

"I inherited both my parents' gift of gab and I realized that I wanted to pursue a career using this gift," Chiqui says. "I also made it my mission to get my parents to think about coming home. Mom was working in a bank, and though she never complained to us about her job, I knew in my heart that she had so much more to offer back home." Chiqui says that initially, it must have been the novelty of living a simple life—taking the kids to school, doing the groceries, cooking for the family—that must have drawn her mother to the United States. "Not once did she complain to us, but growing up I knew that something was missing," she says.

Thus, when she broached the idea of finally returning home, her parents said yes right away, and this is one "achievement," if one may call it, that Chiqui prides herself in. "If people are happy that my parents are back, I can say that I really had a hand in bringing them both home," she says with a smile.

First and only

Perhaps love also had something to do with Chiqui's return. In 1986, as a bubbly 15-year-old, Chiqui met Robbie Puno, who was then taking post-graduate studies at nearby Georgetown University. "I can still remember how we met. I came in late for dinner that evening. Mom had invited Robbie over to meet the Filipino community and my sister Leah. Well, Leah didn't mind him that night, and we ended up talking the night away. I'm sure it was not at all what my mom had in mind," she laughs at the recollection.

Robbie was Chiqui's first and only boyfriend, and the two were married in 1993. "That year was a milestone for me. I returned home, got married and had my first child, all in a span of 12 months!" After 13 years of marriage, Chiqui is now mother to 12-year-old Randy and 10-year-old Nick, whose lives she is very much involved in.

Robbie helped Chiqui land a job as a reporter for Action 9, a current affairs program on RPN-9. "That was such a baptism of fire! I had to speak in Tagalog, and it was reportorial style. I had to learn fast," she relates. Afterwards, Chiqui moved on to channel 5, where she learned the basics of sporstcasting, and then joined Vintage, where her sportscasting skills were further honed.

Live show

Nowadays, Chiqui is busy hosting "It's My Life" on ANC every Friday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. It's a job that she feels she was really cut out to do. "The sportscasting helps a lot in a live show because in sports, you call what you see, and you don't have time to plan what you're going to say. You have to be quick. I'm glad that I got that kind of training." Chiqui prepares for her show, which is topic- and not celebrity-based, by reading up on the theme ahead of time. "Just enough so that I don't overstuff myself with ideas and pre-conceived notions, such that I'll be closed to what my guests are saying. I read enough to get into the mood—I owe that to my guests and to my audience."

On television, Chiqui has an easy rapport with her guests, and has the knack for making them feel comfortable and right at home on her TV sofa, whether they're talking about premarital sex or training one's pets. Perhaps the background in psychology has helped.

And how do her parents feel about their daughter, who now lives her purpose out on Philippine television? "Dad is my biggest critic and mom is my cheerleader," she says, "Dad tells it like it is and mom gives gentle tips and feedback. I really listen to them because they know what they speak of and they're really very helpful. Their critique becomes the take-off point for our discussions during family dinners on weekends!" Pete and Boots must be so proud to see how far their little girl has come.

The quiet life: Pete and Boots Roa moved their family away from the limelight; Chiqui is second from left

PDI FILE

She found...*from page 2*

"Young people in Japan have personal computers, cellular phones, digital cameras and other electronic gadgets as their best friends," she says. "A group of teenagers who have never met in person would only communicate through their cellular phones and agree to commit suicide together at a scheduled time. These cases are not isolated," she adds.

In one fellowship program, she narrates, a group of Japanese students came over to Negros and were surprised to know that their Filipino counterparts still hold water, land, air and sunlight as the most important things in life.

Dramatic things

Seiko herself has learned to love the Philippines so much because "dramatic things happen here all the time," she says. She wants to continue what she is doing, she says, and values her work because it helps people establish themselves as independent individuals who can make decisions for themselves.

Her work and its results has enabled Seiko to see a better future for the farmers of Negros—where families can eat three square meals every day and send their children to school without borrowing money from anyone; where children can finish their education and practice their profession in their own country; where daughters would not say, *"Mapa-Japan ko, mamana ko Hapon* (I will go to Japan and marry a Japanese)," because so far, this is the best way they know to improve their lives.

Through JCNC's People's Agricultural Plan (PAP) 21, Seiko helps organize former *sacadas* to learn the technology of organic farming. She also facilitates networking and cultural exchange programs between Negros and their support agencies in the Asia Pacific Resource Center. PAP21 runs the Tuburan (spring) Technology and Resource Center in barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City, which facilitates the transfer of technology, like organic farming and vermi-composting, as well as food processing so women can market their products. Farmer-members now number about 1,000.

"Families no longer have to borrow money from anyone for their basic needs because they are able to earn about P200 everyday and P1,000 every week from their gardens alone," says Seiko.

The project has given women more control over the family budget, because they take charge of cultivating their own vegetable plots and selling their produce. Through the Rural Women Exchange Forum, they learn more skills from exposure trips to another family-based organic vegetable gardening project in Cebu. Gender sensitivity training also gives them better self-esteem that has only made them more effective partners in food production.

Seiko's contribution to the social and economic changes in Negros has not gone unnoticed. She has been picked as one of the 27 nominees from the Philippines in the unprecedented global search known as "The 1,000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005."

But more than the honor, Seiko considers people as her main reason for staying: "I like people to change together. I want to do something for them because it makes me feel very rich."

Women's Feature Service

This Week

Art

The Ayala Museum and the Federation of Asian Artists in the Southeast Asia present The **20th Asian International Art Exhibition**. The exhibit celebrates the two decades of exchange in art and ideas among the member countries of the federation. The AIAE is an annual event organized to foster the development of contemporary art in Asian countries. Exhibit runs until March 26 at the ground floor and fourth floor galleries of the Ayala Museum. For inquiries, call 757-7117 to 757-7121 or visit www.ayala-museum.com.

Finale Art File presents **BDG/BoDeGa/Bago't Dating Gawa**, an inventory of works in various media by artist Jose Tence Ruiz from the last 30 years at the SM Art Center, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. The exhibit runs until March 12.

Music

Celebrated tenor **Sal Malaki** and renowned concert pianist **Jonathan Arevalo Coo** take centerstage in a benefit concert at the Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo of the Cultural Center of Philippines to be held March 5, 7 p.m. For inquiries and reservations, call 536-3677 to 536-3678 or log on to www.ticketworld.com.ph.

Various figures of women in music will be the **Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's** main theme for its seventh concert in its 2005-2006 series entitled The Uncommon Woman" with New York-based soprano **Alison Buchanan** as guest soloist, slated on March 10, 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo (Main Theater). For inquiries and reservations, call the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or Ticketnet at 991-5555. You can also visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph or www.yehey.com/ccp.

Atbp

English Fluency Workshop. The Corporate Mind will hold the 2006 Edition of Joscephine Gomez's Prescriptions for English fluency on March 4 to March 5, March 18 to March 19 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and from March 6 to March 9 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Function Room, City and Land Mega Plaza, ADB Ave. cor. Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The seminar-workshop makes use of a unique combination of time-tested methods and the latest international techniques in imparting language learning. For inquiries and reservations, call 687-7898, 637-8787 or 0919-8763770.

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde will hold a seminar titled **Mental Health and Deafness: Theory and Practice of Counseling the Deaf** on March 7 to March 8 at the CSB Auditorium. It will feature three workshops focusing on the following topics: Deafness and Mental Health; Psychological/Career Assessment; and Deafness and Theories, Strategies and Techniques in Counseling for the Deaf. Experts from the National Technical Institute (NTID) for the Deaf of the Rochester Institute of Technology will facilitate the series of training seminars for deaf students, their parents, counseling professionals, and teachers working with the deaf. NTID is the world's first and largest technological college for the deaf. For inquiries, call 526-7441 or e-mail zabalae@dls-csb.edu.ph.

The **10th Vipassana Meditation** course will be held on March 8 to March 19 at Sico Farm in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Vipassana is one of India's most ancient techniques of meditation. It is a practical and effective meditation method that can cleanse the mind. For inquiries and reservations, call 639-3047, 0917-8004464 or 0916-9708578. You can also e-mail vipassana_rp@yahoo.com or visit. www.dharma.org.

All in the Game

by Sol Juvida
photographs by August dela Cruz

They bagged golds in the last SEA Games, establishing dancesport as a legitimate sport. But as ballroom veterans Rico Rosima, Faye Salvador and Belinda Adora reveal, beyond glamor and grace, it's all about hard work and sacrifice

After waltzing and samba-ing their way to gold, call them athletes, not just D.I.s

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Handsome couple: Faye and Rico in competition

"I am willing to learn, even spend for this sport," said Rico

HEY should have started dancing at a much younger age, they say.

Oddly enough, Rico Rosima, Filomena "Faye" Salvador and Belinda Adora began their dancing careers only when they were in their 20s. Yet, they went on to become excellent dancers. So good, in fact, that they went on to become gold medalists in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games dancesport competitions.

Dancesport, a 10-dance competition event in two categories—Standard and Latin—was in the limelight in the recently concluded SEA Games held in Cebu City. Rico and Faye were in the Standard category—waltz, quickstep, foxtrot, and Viennese waltz. Belinda was in the Latin category—cha-cha, rumba, samba, jive and *pasa doble*.

A handsome couple, Rico and Faye displayed graceful teamwork and dynamic floor craft. Belinda exuded power and charm in likewise claiming the gold.

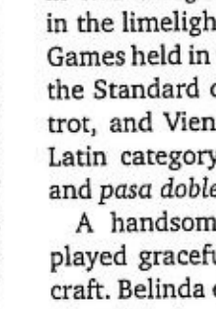
Winning was most memorable for the three, since this was the first time that dancesport was accepted in the SEA Games. Obviously, dancesport has passed the main criteria for an event to be considered a sport: power, speed and skill.

'You're really good'

Rico, 29, said he appreciated the fact that the sports community has finally treated them as real athletes. "Hey, you are really good, they would say to us," said Rico in Filipino.

A second year computer science student before he became a dance instructor (D.I.), Rico is proud these days of his new calling card, which reads, "Rico Rosima, Dance Sport Athlete."

"The D.I. is gone from my calling card," Rico said, grinning. "The D.I. image was being looked down upon, but with dancesport becoming popular now, things have changed for the better."



Faye, a Communications graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, admitted that she had thought of ballroom dancing as "merely for the oldies. Then I found out it's also for sports!"

For partners like Rico and Faye, life is a daily grind of six to eight hours of dancing. That's why for both, time management is the key.

"Bookings and practice schedules should jibe with that of your partner," said Faye.

Waking up at lunchtime and sleeping at dawn, Faye said, their afternoons from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. are for practice or teaching. From 8 p.m. to 12 midnight, it's "bookings" or dancing with guests.

"Our attitude towards each other should also match," said Faye. "Not only in dancing should we be compatible. If one is not in the mood to dance, or we can't agree on our steps, it's time to end the practice session."

For their regular practice, Rico and Faye set aside at least an hour every other day or at least four to five hours a week. If there's a forthcoming competition, they practice every day for at least two hours.

"It means less socializing," said Faye, "and I still have to do my workout or Pilates every other day."

Rico, who is married (to Amor) and has two kids, Mico and Mica, often has to sacrifice family time in favor of practices or bookings.

"When I arrive, Amor is asleep," said Rico. "When she leaves for school to teach, I am asleep. I see my kids only during lunch time."

Mindset is also important, said Faye.

"Even when competition is still months away, I figure out what to do, program my schedules everyday, plan what to do on the dance floor, focus on practice, and avoid discussions or fights with my partner during practice sessions."

Rico, on the other hand, has had this lifetime resolve to excel in dancing. "I told myself a long time ago that I like to dance," he said. "And I am willing to learn, and ready even to spend for it."

Expensive sport

Dancesport, much like playing golf, is an expensive sport. During the SEA Games, Rico's new tailcoat cost P70,000 and Faye's gown P60,000, both courtesy of San Miguel Corporation. For coaching, foreign dance experts were hired for $1,000 for five days of workshops. Competing abroad also entails air fare and hotel expenses.

Their guests sometime contribute to their expenses, said the two, who also have to shell out their own money at times.

Rico and Faye's sacrifices have reaped rewards, as they've emerged champions for four consecutive years from 2002 to 2005 in national competitions organized by the Dance Sports Council of the Philippines.

They were also the champions in the Hong Kong Dance Competition in 2003 and placed third in Taipei in 2000, second in Malaysia and Indonesia in 2003, and third in Australia in 2004.

"We've already won a lot of honors but many do not know about it, because the competitions were held abroad," said Faye. When they decided to join the SEA Games, they knew they had to do it for the country.

For a year, they had rigorous dance practice with their coach. To be able to concentrate on their daily practice, Faye and Rico had to give up some bookings in the afternoon. They maintained their evening bookings, however.

"I jogged at the Ultra oval, and I'd go around it seven to eight times every other day for a month to build my stamina," said Rico.

Two weeks before the SEA Games, they both gave up all their bookings. "I had no work, my income was gone," Rico said.

In Cebu, two days before the competition and after the welcome parade, Rico and Faye quietly practiced again, and were

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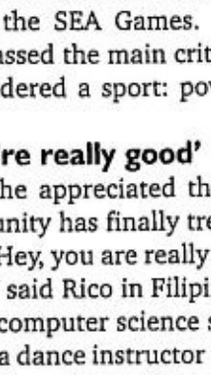

Belinda's body ached all over the morning after the competition

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Jim ...from page 1

It was par for the course, but it only made us more committed to the movement to get Marcos out of Malacañang and our lives. I was more than ready to risk life, limb, career and future for a better Philippines.

The events leading to Edsa I shaped my political convictions, and the historic four days of the Edsa revolution told me that my idealism was not misplaced. It affirmed my belief that we Filipinos have what it takes to be great.

Greatness and unity

"Magkakapit bisig libo-libong tao, kay sarap pala maging Pilipino... Handog ng Pilipino sa mundo/ Mapayapang paraang pagbabago/ Katotohanan, kalayaan, katarungan/ Ay kayang makamit na walang dahas/ Basta't magkaisa tayong lahat..."

Those words, which spontaneously came out of me as I wrote what became the Edsa anthem *"Handog Ng Pilipino Sa Mundo,"* captured both the greatness and unity that we are capable of when we set aside our differences.

Fast-forward to 2000. The year 1986 seemed so far away, like a half-forgotten dream. In place of the euphoria and optimism, I remember the feeling of being tossed in a sea of uncertainty and despair as we were fed by media with a daily diet of scandal after scandal that characterized Erap's failed presidency and moral weakness. We had undoubtedly taken a wrong turn somewhere, and we were headed for the abyss, which was just around the corner.

It was around then that I applied for migration to Australia. I felt it would be a good opportunity to sit out the Erap years and pursue something the family has always wanted to do—live abroad. I was in my late 40s and I was restless, wanting to try things I've never done before. My decision to move was and remains to be as much about personal growth as it was and is about the disappointment with how our leaders are running the country to the ground.

Before Edsa I, my family actually had green cards to live in the United States. But we surrendered these to the US Embassy in 1989 right after the deadliest coup staged by the military adventurists of the Reform the AFP Movement. After that close call for our democracy, my wife Lydia and I decided to make the statement that we were staying to defend the gains of our newly recovered freedoms from the military predators. We were staking our lives and that of our children to show our belief in, and support for, our new democracy. And to prove it, we closed the escape hatch.

PDI PHOTO

Partners: Boboy and Danny have been very supportive

Flabbergasted

I believed then as I do now that sometimes, one must do what one must, even if others think it's crazy. The immigration officer was flabbergasted when I showed up at the US Embassy just two days after the coup ended to return our green cards. He could not fathom why we were doing this when so many Filipinos were willing to give anything for the chance to live in the US.

The way things stood in 2000, however, we felt it was time to seriously consider the option to migrate. To our great delight, we were promptly approved for migration to Australia. We were given a five-year window to make the move, but we wanted to leave right away. I was tired and had little enthusiasm for political involvement and causes.

It seemed that we had not learned anything from Edsa I. We had squandered our opportunities for genuine and lasting change. Almost every institution in our midst was faltering and failing its constituents, and I felt deeply let down.

When after Edsa I I had the passion to engage and get involved, 15 years later, I was tired and even doubted whether doing so would change anything. It was Marshall MacLuhan who said that the price for eternal vigilance was boredom. In my case, it was more a case of a flagging spirit, worn out from trying, in my own way, to get the country out of the inertia that it seems to be perennially stuck in. I was becoming too cynical. I needed a break.

But politics aside, leaving was understandably attractive for many other personal reasons. I was eagerly getting into new pursuits—teaching, writing books, photography, scuba-diving, giving workshops. And I still wanted to do other things, like pursue further studies, or simply try a different milieu to wake up to and engage. In other words, I was looking for new challenges, new vistas to explore and conquer.

Still hard times

But Edsa Dos intervened and delayed our move. After Edsa Dos succeeded in evicting Estrada in January 2001, we had second thoughts about leaving. But, as things turned out, our hope for change was short-lived. Soon after President Arroyo took over the government, it was clear that we would still be in for hard times. There was the nightmare of Edsa Tres in late April, the relentless assault of the opposition on the newly installed President, and its blind ambition to return to power at any cost. And the scandals that have plagued the Arroyo administration almost since Day One did not inspire confidence.

PDI PHOTO

Crazy enough: With Lydia in 2004

Still, our plan to leave would be delayed by more important and tragic events in the family.

On the home front, my mother-in-law was found to have cancer and passed away in less than a year. Shortly after my mother-in-law died, Lydia, who took care of her mother until the end, was herself diagnosed with breast cancer, which forced us to put our move to emigrate on hold indefinitely. Lydia's cancer came as a big shock to our family. We considered the option of her getting treatment in Australia, but we later agreed it would be best to get her treatment here amid the healing company of her friends and loved ones.

Fortunately, she showed positive signs of recovery, but our euphoria was quickly dashed when her father was diagnosed with lung and bone cancer in January last year. We stayed by his side until his death in October.

With the demise of both Lydia's parents and her continuing recovery, we decided that it was time to pick up our plan to move to Sydney, Australia.

Kind to immigrants

Why Australia? I've always enjoyed visiting the place. As a parent, I always think about what my kids' future will be and constantly worry about their safety. Australia seems like a good place for them to learn to be independent, in a society that is stable, equitable and relatively safe. For starters, the country is kind to immigrants: It provides free education, medical benefits, social services, etc. and is still a decent place to live in.

If the kids find that they want to return to the Philippines later on, it will be their choice. But by moving, we are giving them the opportunity to live in another country and thus be able to make an informed decision.

As for Lydia and me, we are doing this while we are still (relatively) young enough, strong enough and crazy enough to start anew. Do we intend to live in Australia for the rest of our lives? No! We are too hopelessly Pinoy to uproot ourselves completely from this country and society. Our roots are here. Our friends are here and we have spent most of our lives here. We will be back.

Years ago, I explained to a foreigner why overseas Filipinos want to eventually return home. First World countries may have great infrastructure, material comfort and modernity, but these cannot compare with the way the homeland speaks to a Filipino's heart. There may be potholes in the street where I live, but they "speak" to me in a way that a flawless highway in a developed foreign country cannot. I may be upset by the potholes, but the feeling is a familiar one, and an easier one to endure than alienation in a foreign land.

Sense of humor

The things that upset me about the country "speak" to me in that same familiar language. In fact, it is so familiar that my sense of humor can run circles around the very things I complain about. But that is precisely the problem: because these have become too familiar, I am no longer moved by them—at least not enough to be able to change things. Indeed, they have become "my" potholes. Life in the Philippines may be hell at times, but it remains our home. Lydia and I are not even selling our house.

I have been asked if I am disgusted with the way things are here. Yes, absolutely, just like everyone else. Am I abandoning the Philippines? No. I am Filipino. One big issue that I grappled with was the possibility of having to give up my citizenship in the course of migrating. I could not picture NOT being a Filipino. I still can't. But with the new law allowing dual citizenship in place, that has stopped being a concern. Regardless, I know from years of meeting many of our *kababayans* abroad that we Pinoys may leave this country and settle in other places but our Filipino-ness will never leave us. Being Filipino is, after all, in the heart.

It might be a good experience living in another society, even for just a while, and becoming a Global Filipino, like Rizal, Luna, Ninoy, and the OFWs I have met while performing with the APO overseas. I wish to share their experience of living abroad, in functional and orderly societies, and bringing back home lessons learned form the experience. Being a Global Pinoy can only be broadening.

Free society

I am thankful that my closest friends and partners in APO—Danny, Boboy, Betta and Butch Dans—have been very supportive, making my decision to emigrate easier. APO is truly a free society. We have always encouraged each other's plans to grow in the directions we chose.

This is not the end of APO, however. Not by a long shot. Mick Jagger, in explaining the Stones' longevity, said that "good things last forever." I feel the same way about APO, especially after our newly affirmed realization (thanks to our concerts overseas) that generations of Filipinos have indeed grown up with our music. We will continue to tour abroad, and perform in Manila occasionally, although admittedly, our appearances here will be more limited.

In the next few months, I look forward to pursuing my to-do list. After setting up house in Sydney, I would like to study, maybe pursue a masters' degree, or try getting a job—something I have never done. Whatever lies in store for me in this new adventure, I am saying "yes." There is something crazy, thrilling and exciting about it, almost like signing a blank check. One has to do crazy things every now and then.

I know my decision to leave has stirred some concern among some friends, but I have to do what I have to do. Call it a sabbatical. Or a Jungian call to adventure. Maybe it's just me mid-lifing. But the fact is, there are parts of me wishing to find expression somewhere and in ways I have not tried. Political fatigue has made it easier for me to pursue my personal development. I will return to fight another day.

A wise person once pointed out, "We do not see the world as it is. We see it as we are." Perhaps. When I come back, I shall have acquired fresh eyes and a revived spirit and hopefully, a better appreciation once more of the many blessings of life in the Philippines. With reborn enthusiasm, I can once again jump into the fray and give my heart and soul to the day-to-day task of chipping away at the block of inertia that has characterized our society and brought us so many problems.

I am hopeful that I will want to join the effort once again to try and change things for the better in our country, where Lydia and I intend to live the remaining years of our lives. Q

PDI PHOTO

Good things last forever: Saying "yes" to a new adventure, but staying in touch

PDI PHOTO

After ...from page 4

the last to finish at the Waterfront Hotel ballroom. The day of the competition, at 8 a.m., the partners and their families were at the Sto Niño church, praying.

"I couldn't feel anything then, relax *lang ako,"* Rico recalled. "I said to myself, 'this is it.' All the sacrifices for the country, they will finally be tested."

The reward

When he got his gold medal, Rico was teary-eyed. "I felt like crying, not only for the victory, but for all the sacrifices, pain—and this was the reward, the gold medal," said Rico.

Belinda Adora, meanwhile, said she could hardly breathe before their names were called during the awarding.

"The pressure was just too much to bear because we were hosting the event," Belinda said in Filipino. "Everybody's waiting for you to perform. *Grabe.* Competing abroad, there's no pressure because nobody gives a hoot about you, about what you're doing.

"That's why, when the Philippine flag was finally being raised after our victory, the feeling was heavenly. I told myself: 'That's your Philippines. It wants to be a winner always!"

The following morning, Belinda said she felt the pain—finally. Her body was aching all over.

"All my muscles were aching, especially my feet. My toes, my soles, they were all in pain."

While in competition, Belinda said her energy from the first to the last round was equal for all five dances.

"That's why you need your stamina," she said. "One good thing about dancesport, you are still beautiful while competing—unlike in boxing, where your face gets mauled and rearranged."

Belinda, one of the most disciplined among all dancesport athletes and a long-time veteran of the ballroom scene, has been winning medals in various competitions abroad since 1998. She has even competed three times in that prestigious 77-year-old dance competition in England, the Blackpool Dance Festival.

"In all the competitions I've joined, I sometimes finish second, third or champion, depending on what I dance," she said, "but I was the Asia Pacific champion in 1992.

"I'm too dedicated a dancer. All the things that have no relation to dancing, I drop them all when I'm preparing for a competition. Social life, boyfriend, they take a back seat. I even quit my studies just to concentrate."

Ageless

Ageless and weighing 105 lbs on a 5'2" frame, Belinda is a sight to behold on the dance floor. Her strength and graceful power are unmatched to this day by her peers.

Her secret, she said, is constant cross training.

"I really work hard and push myself," she said.

For the SEA Games, she practiced for three hours everyday with Michael Mendoza, her partner.

"I also have my own practice for one hour, and two hours of cross training—gymnastics, aerobics, jazz, gym work, or Pilates," she said.

Luckily, Belinda and Michael, through San Miguel Corporation, were able to get one of the toughest and best coaches in the world, Espen Salber, a Norwegian.

Belinda, in preparation for the SEA Games, had to reduce her teaching workload at her dance studio from 10 hours to four hours. Right now, Belinda is back to teaching at the Savannah Moon Dance Studio. She is also a diligent third year accounting student at the Centro Escolar University.

Teaching is not a stable job, she said, "as students are seasonal." Unlike Rico and Faye, she doesn't earn from bookings. "It's not my calling," she said.

Career after dancesport

Five years from now, she sees herself as an accountant. "I leave it all up to the Lord," she said. "I pray to the Lord to show me what my career will be after dancesport."

For now, she said, she's taking a break from competing. "I spent so much for the SEA Games that I got tired spending," she said with a laugh.

What does she think about the future of dancesport in the country? "We have the style, the passion," said Belinda, "but we are very much behind in training compared to the Europeans who are the best in the world. But if we have kids today that we can train, maybe in the future we'd have a chance to win in the Olympics."

Rico and Faye, on the other hand, are turning professional soon.

"We have nothing to prove here," said Rico, who thinks they have reached the peak of their careers with their victory in the SEA Games.

"Our problem is, we need the money when we compete abroad," he said. "It's always been very expensive competing abroad."

"Five years from now, I'll be 34 years old," Rico said. "I hope I'll no longer be dancing by then, no more bookings. I will just teach."

Faye, however, wants to be one of the best dance teachers in Asia and an adjudicator or judge in competitions. She enjoys teaching, she said, and is known to be good at it. She has also passed her first level of licensing exams.

"If I had to live my life again," Faye said, "I'd still want to be a dancer. But I would start younger."

Pinoy Ngai

by Jess Abrera

Still ...from page 8

ernance), of which he is a trustee. Lots of big letters, lots of big things to fight for.

He remains a member of the LP's national Executive Council and is teaching political science in both Ateneo and De La Salle. He explains that what he does full-time now is pushing a reform agenda. "I'm hoping that we will succeed in having a pro-people government system of competence and cred ibility, and I still believe that, ultimately, it will happen." He's still involved in advocacies he's always believed in, particularly reforms in education. "I'm very thankful for the opportunity of serving three years in DepEd. The reforms must continue there." As executive director, he is working with a network of volunteer lawyers called Libertas, which works on law reform.

As one who contributed to both Edsa 1 and 2, Gascon says there are similarities and disparities. "In a sense, the leadership in the two Edsas had a lot to be accountable for. There were a lot of aspirations that needed to be fulfilled. In the case of Cory, a significant portion of those aspirations was indeed fulfilled. In the case of GMA, unfortunately, she didn't pursue what she promised to deliver."

Elitist politics

The problem, Gascon says, "is that we have not learned enough from our history." An elitist kind of politics continues to dominate public policy despite the fact that Edsa 1 and 2 were popular uprisings. There are always problems with grafting new ideas unto an old system.

Though the bulk of his time is spent trying to find a way of moving the country through legal and constitutional means, Gascon looks forward to quiet time with his wife. He likes to read, and likes to eat a lot. Someday he'd like to set up a school. "If not, when I retire I'll probably be a taxi driver, and use my taxi as my school, (through) one-on-one sessions with my passengers."

The key to his idea for change is the young ones, the same group he emerged from, more like Theseus rather than Icarus. "I have faith in our young people. They will respond. It's not yet the time. We need to provide them alternative avenues for their involvement. It can't always be marching in the streets. The challenge now is to present them with alternative avenues of involvement in competition with other distractions which were not present 20 years ago, like the Internet, cable TV, SMS and Friendster. I look as that as a challenge." The people under 20, those who have never seen the dictatorship and what it took to topple it, face some odds. "To them it's *tabula rasa,* to us it's history. And one of our problems is that we don't have a collective memory. We need to have a collective outrage, and maybe 20 years after Edsa would be a good time to start."

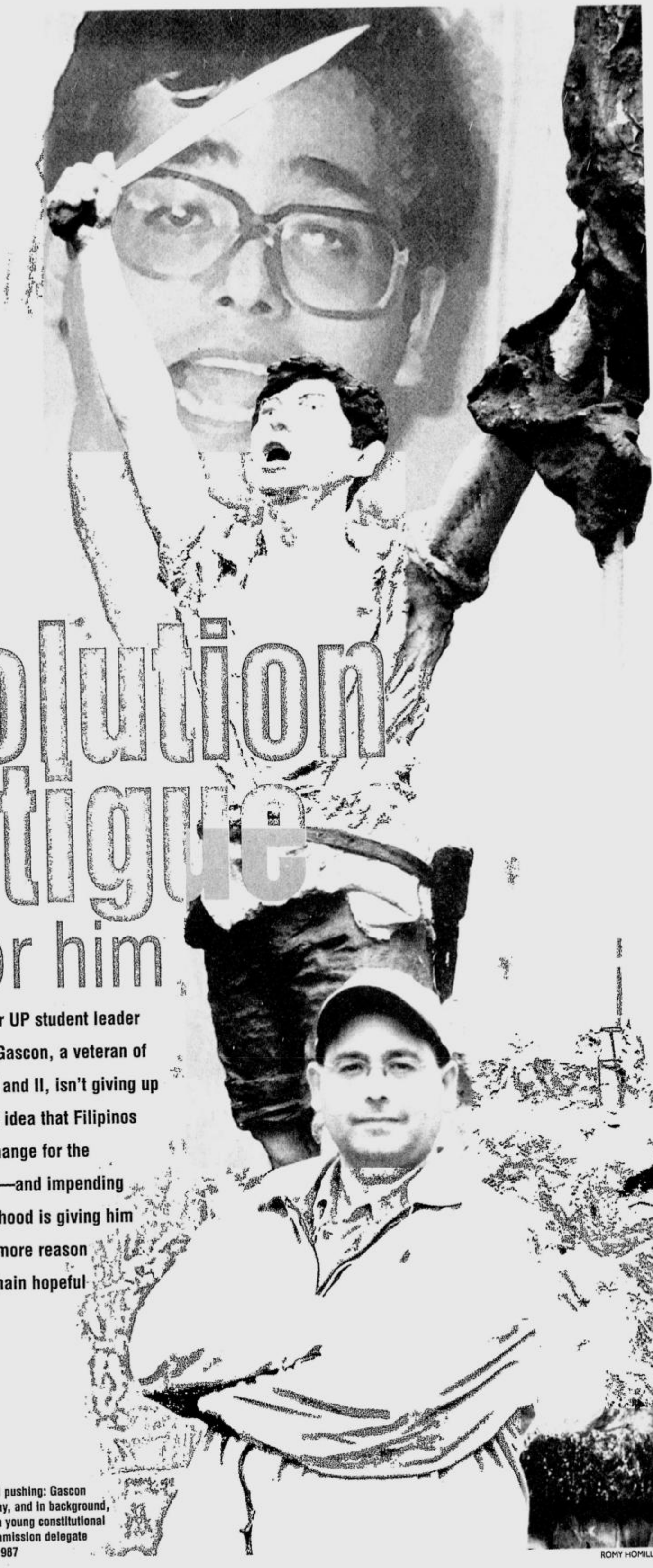
It's a motivation that is further crystallized by the impending arrival of his first child and by the questions of his young students. Gascon is still busy doing the work that comes with making a difference. There is no revolution fatigue for him.

"There are good days and there are bad days. I remain hopeful. It's important to have hope otherwise despair sets in. Looking around me, looking at the young people I teach, I cannot help but be hopeful." Chito Gascon, ESQ, true believer, pauses before continuing. "I'm doubly hopeful because I'm becoming a father myself and I want to be sure that I'm able to give my child a better future than what I've experienced. Will I succeed? I do not know, but I will not be able to forgive myself if I can't tell my child that I tried."

by Ruel S. De Vera

No revolution fatigue for him

Former UP student leader Chito Gascon, a veteran of Edsa I and II, isn't giving up on the idea that Filipinos can change for the better—and impending fatherhood is giving him even more reason to remain hopeful



PDI PHOTO

ROMY HOMILLADA

Still pushing: Gascon today, and in background, as a young constitutional commission delegate in 1987

IT'S only been a couple of days since he shaved, but Chito Gascon's beard is coming back with a vengeance. The 41-year-old lawyer ditched the beard on his pregnant wife Melissa's request. Truth be told, Gascon, with his quick wit and alert eyes, looks younger without the beard. "It's also so that when she kisses me, it doesn't cause a rash," he explains.

Like his trademark facial hair, Gascon's ideas about social change remain resilient. Twenty years after being part of the first Edsa revolt, the former student leader is spending his time pushing for reform in government against all odds. His is a history filled with acronyms that speak of his heavy political involvement, his being unafraid to do the nitty-gritty work that come with making changes on a wide scale.

Jose Luis Martin Gascon, ESQ, is the eldest of four children of businessman Ramon Gascon and wife Cecille. Growing up, Gascon says he was a quiet child, but made up for it later. He didn't intend to get into campus politics during his high school days at Don Bosco Makati, but wound up heading the Presidents' Council. "I already had an interest in public issues and promoting the interest of my classmates and my school, but not in politics," he explains.

Swept into the issues

Dreaming of being a technocrat, he had originally wanted to become an engineer when he enroled at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

"When I came into the university, I got swept into the issues of the time, and I questioned myself, my priorities and my contributions to society, questions that young people ask themselves," he explains. He then shifted to Philosophy, which he initially did not realize was a Pre-law course at the time. "It so happened that while I was asking myself questions, political events were unfolding," he recalls.

Ninoy Aquino's death in 1983 found Gascon wading into civil action with such groups as Kompil and JAJA (Justice for Aquino, Justice for All), among others, organizing and rallying all the way into the turbulent 1985 snap elections. "After that, UP was leading the way with civil disobedience, a campaign of disengagement from the Marcos regime." By the time the 1986 Edsa revolt bloomed, Gascon had been elected UP Student Council chairman (incidentally, two of the student councilors were Francis Pangilinan and David Celdran).

While Gascon and the UP student leaders were meeting to analyze the events, Jaime Cardinal Sin on Saturday, Feb. 22, 1986 called on the people to come to Edsa. Throughout the weekend, Gascon hardly slept and was instead rallying UP students, faculty and staff to join the gathering at Edsa, "We organized college assemblies and mobilized buses to bring them to Edsa and back," he says.

His work as organizer continued after Edsa. Taking a break from school, Gascon was, at 21, the youngest member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission representing the youth. That Constitution, he noted, was a mixed bag, as it had a social reform agenda and was a pro-people piece of legislation but it also "created a political framework, a presidential, bicameral political system which, in hindsight, constrained access to public decision-making for the marginalized."

After returning to school to finish his degree, Gascon worked for the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs for two years. In the spirit of democratic participation, sectoral representatives were named to Congress, and Gascon went to Congress representing the youth in 1990, once again the youngest member. Out of that stint came two noteworthy laws: one creating the Sangguniang Kabataan, and Republic Act 7610 or the Child Protection Act.

Think tank

Gascon later joined the Liberal Party when he decided to move from NGO work to party politics and supported Jovito Salonga's ill-fated presidential campaign in 1992. He then went on to law school at UP as a working student, passed the bar in 1996 and joined the think tank National Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS).

Always someone who looks at the idea of big justice (as compared to the case-to-case work of "small justice") such as international law, Gascon went on to earn his Master's in Law at St. Edmund's College at the University of Cambridge as a British Council Chevening scholar and, once in Cambridge, was named a Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholar.

Upon returning from England, he became NIPS Executive Director and founded a law firm with friends. Working with NGOs, Gascon joined the protest movement against former President Joseph Estrada in what would become Edsa 2: "They're both People Power, public outrage at the excesses and abuses of those in power," he says of Edsa 1 and 2. "It was, in a sense, (a way of) asserting popular sovereignty and renewing democratic institutions. But the impulses were different. Edsa 1 was a reaction to dictatorship. Edsa 2 was a reaction to misgovernance."

Post-Edsa 2, Gascon stayed with NIPS and was part of the government's peace panel negotiating with the leftist National Democratic Front. In November 2002, he joined government full-time when he was appointed Education Undersecretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs under then-Secretary Edilberto de Jesus . The sensitive post meant Gascon was going over contracts and making sure everything was on the level as part of a long-term process of reforming the Education department. "No regrets, I was very pleased to have worked with a man who had vision and was genuinely committed to a reform agenda within DepEd," Gascon says. He stayed on under the next Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad, plugging away at the details for change.

'Hello' Garci' rigmarole

But he was growing alarmed with the direction he perceived the Arroyo administration was taking. The "Hello Garci" rigmarole led to the resignation of Abad as part of the Hyatt 10. Gascon submitted his irrevocable resignation the very same day, July 8, 2005. Abad had actually asked him to stay to continue the work at DepEd, but Gascon, who believed in what the Hyatt 10 stood for, felt he could no longer stay. "There was to me, over time, the realization that the President was not committed to the reform agenda that I believed in," he says. "If she were, she would never have appointed Garci in the first place."

And back to the front lines of protest, Gascon returned, as he joined in covening the Black and White Movement as well as the Citizens for TRUTH (Transparency, Responsibility, Unity, Transformation, and Hope). Out of the Hyatt 10 sprung the new think tank Incite Gov (International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Gov-

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